

## Pressure grows for hostage release

# McCarthy and Keenan alive, but in chains

By Staff Reporters

CAMPAIGNERS for the release of the four British hostages being held in Lebanon are increasing pressure on the Government to step up its efforts on their behalf after learning yesterday that two of the captives are alive.

Families and friends of Mr John McCarthy and Mr Brian Keenan were overjoyed after hearing confirmation that the two men kidnapped in Beirut in April 1986 were well. Mr Frank Reed, the American released on Monday, said he had had a long conversation with them on Saturday.

Mr Reed shouted the news from the balcony of the German hospital where he is being treated and debriefed, after telephoning both families yesterday. He told Mr McCarthy's friend Miss Jill Morrell that the hostages were being held blindfolded and chained to radiators most of the time, but that Mr McCarthy was keeping fit doing press-ups and squat-thrusts.

Hopes of securing their early release received an immediate setback, however, when the Home Office announced the deportation of an Iranian student held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The Iranian news agency INRA said the move showed Britain's hostility, adding: "Ironically, London has repeatedly asked the Islamic Republic of Iran to help to secure release of British hostages in Lebanon."

Senior British Government

sources hailed the information given by Mr Reed as "enormously helpful and encouraging", but reaffirmed that the Government would not do any deals to free the hostages. No special diplomatic initiative was planned, although the Foreign Office is sending an official to Wiesbaden to take part in Mr Reed's debriefing.

Miss Morrell yesterday demanded that the Government drop its refusal to talk to Iran and Syria, who played a key role in the release of two American hostages in the past two weeks. "It shows that if you do talk to the Syrians and do discuss things with the Iranians you can get somewhere," she said. President Bush has thanked both countries for their help, making it more difficult for London to continue insisting on preconditions for talks.

Mr Chris Pearson, president of the Friends of John McCarthy, said: "It is now up to the Foreign Office to go hell for leather: let's get the hostages out."

The Government is also coming under pressure in Westminster, where Sir David Steel, the Liberal Democrats' foreign affairs spokesman, said Britain should do more to associate itself with American efforts and seek the resumption of diplomatic relations with those countries that could help. Mr Gerald Kaufman, the shadow Foreign Secretary, called for "clear reassurance that the Government is taking active steps which will result in the release of the British hostages".

Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish Foreign Minister, welcomed the news that Mr Keenan — who holds dual British and Irish nationality — was alive, and said that he had met the Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Velayati last week. Dr Velayati had hopes of securing Mr Keenan's early release, but Mr Collins would not speculate on a definition of "early".

Mr Reed said he knew nothing about the fate of the other two British hostages, Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, or Mr Jack Mann, a retired pilot. He had spent nearly two years with the Americans Mr Terry Anderson and Mr Tom Sutherland, but had not seen them for some time. He had assumed they had been freed and said he was angry and embarrassed to be released before them.

Mr Reed's wife, Fifi, said her husband had described how sometimes up to six hostages were together at the same time, while at other times they were kept on their

own. He had been in the same room as Mr McCarthy, aged 33, and Mr Keenan, aged 39, since October.

Miss Morrell, who spoke to Mr Reed in a three-way telephone link with Mr McCarthy's father, Patrick, said: "He said John was in good health and good spirits. As far as his captors could be, they are quite good. He is not being tortured." Mr McCarthy had seen messages of support in Lebanese newspapers. "We will be carrying on the campaign and will continue to send him messages which will keep him going until we see him on that balcony (the Wiesbaden hospital balcony)," Miss Morrell said.

But the campaigners' election was tinged with fear. Mr Thomas McCarthy said from his home at Cornish Hall End, Essex: "Mr Reed told me point blank that hostages would be punished if certain information came out."

Resides the absence of clues as to where the hostages were held, it remained unclear last night whether their captors were "Islamic Dawn", the organization which announced Mr Reed's release.

The Iranian student deported yesterday was named by IRNA as Mr Manouchehr Fardavi Ardeshani, a graduate mechanical engineering student in Manchester. Home Office officials refused to comment on speculation that his expulsion was linked with the death sentence passed on the author Salman Rushdie over his book *The Satanic Verses*.

On his arrival in Tehran, Mr Ardeshani called for the release of Mehdi Karubi, who was one of four Iranian students arrested last December and later charged with an arson attack on a London bookshop. This was not the first hint given by Iran that Karubi's release would be among its key demands should any talks be held.

Family reactions, page 2  
Profiles, page 2



Mr Reed: Shouted news from hospital balcony

## Mugger snatches a 'worthless' £290m

By David Sapsed

A ROBBER snatched a briefcase containing more than £290 million in negotiable bonds from a City of London messenger in what is believed to be a world record for a mugger. But the mugger stands to make not a penny.

Within an hour of the attack, the Bank of England flashed a warning on the City's market dealing screens detailing the stolen documents. The mugger, in his late twenties and dressed in a brown leather bomber-jacket, at-

Details, page 3



Hopeful beginnings: President de Klerk and Mr Mandela before their talks at a mansion in suburban Cape Town

## Mandela to meet Thatcher on July 4

By Michael Knipe  
Diplomatic Correspondent

AS THE African National Congress began its first formal talks with the South African Government yesterday, it was announced that Mr Nelson Mandela, the organization's deputy president, has at last agreed to talk to Mrs Thatcher.

There was a mood of cautious hope as the Pretoria and ANC teams gathered in Cape Town for talks aimed at resolving the barriers to the destruction of apartheid.

Mrs Thatcher's meeting with Mr Mandela will be at Downing Street on July 4, the Prime Minister's office confirmed yesterday. He will arrive in Britain on July 3, and will also have talks with Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary. Before coming to Britain he will have discussions with Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, in Dublin.

The ANC leader's visit will be his second to Britain since his release from 27 years' imprisonment on February 11, but it will be the first time he has formal discussions with the Government. He met Mr Hurd briefly and informally at a dinner in Windhoek in March during the Namibian independence celebrations.

But then, and again when he visited London at Easter to attend a rock concert celebrating his release, he had no contacts with British officials, despite the Government's clear readiness for a meeting.

Mr Mandela's refusal to meet Mrs Thatcher was meant as a rebuke over her opposition to increased sanctions against South Africa and her speedy decision unilaterally to lift some of the modest British measures against Pretoria. The Prime Minister pressed for Mr Mandela's release, and said she would not visit South Africa until he was free.

Talks optimism, page 9

## Soviet call for treaty to end war 'a ploy'

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

THE Soviet Union is to call for a formal peace treaty to end the Second World War when the two Germanies and the four wartime Allies hold their first meeting at ministerial level on Saturday in Bonn.

The demand will be opposed by the other five countries, which see it as impractical because up to 57 countries could, in theory, demand to be involved in peace talks.

The Western Allies hope Moscow will eventually back down, but fear it could cause a serious delay in the talks, which Bonn is anxious to complete quickly. The West German coalition's prospects in the December federal elections are thought to depend partly on sustaining a rapid pace towards reunification.

It could also throw into disarray discussions which

Bonn and East Berlin are holding on the possibility of putting off the federal elections so that they can be combined with all-German elections early next year.

Moscow's demand appears to be part of a Soviet tactic to slow down the talks, reflecting fears that German reunification is rushing ahead out of control. But Moscow also appears to have a wider strategy. It is probably no coincidence that it has introduced complications in two sets of arms control talks, on conventional arms and on an "open skies" treaty.

A linkage between the different strands of Soviet policy was hinted at by the Soviet delegation at a preparatory meeting of the "two plus four talks" in East Berlin on Monday. The Soviet delegation tried to introduce two new

items in the agenda for Saturday's meeting in Bonn. It called the first of these "the synchronization of German unity with the all-European process". The second would deal with Germany's "international obligations".

Moscow found no support from East Germany or the four Western Allies — the United States, West Germany, Britain and France — but did not withdraw its proposals.

The West agrees with Moscow that the talks need to be set against the wider background of the changes in Eastern Europe and the possibility of a "new architecture" in which the two military alliances might change in

Continued on page 22, col 4

## Cautious Labour 'happy with 200 gains'

By Robin Oakley  
Political Editor

CONSERVATIVES could end up holding fewer than a fifth of the 5,327 seats at stake in today's local elections if opinion poll trends are reflected in voting.

There have been predictions of the loss of 600 seats from an already low base and if the key London boroughs of Westminster and Wandsworth and the northern city of Bradford, all key examples of Thatcherite policies in action, fall to Labour, the pressure on Mrs Thatcher's leadership will intensify, with bad inflation figures on the way next week.

But yesterday Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, said that the two London boroughs, which have the lowest poll tax at £195 and £148 respectively, would both remain Conservative.

An NOP poll in Westminster, for the London Evening Standard, showed Conservatives at 42 per cent and Labour 48 per cent, compared with voting at the last borough elections in 1986 of Tories 42.5 per cent and Labour 38.7. In Wandsworth the figures were Conservatives 45 per cent and Labour 48 per cent, compared with 44.7 per cent and 43.4 in 1986.

Conservative Central Office has grown optimistic in the past few days that the nationwide damage may not be as bad as once expected. Labour was cautious. Dr Jack Cunningham, the party's campaign co-ordinator, refused to predict success for his party in either Westminster or Wandsworth, saying that both contests were too close to call.

He said he would be delighted if Labour managed 200 gains overall, despite his belief that the poll tax controversy would considerably increase turnout, as it had in recent local government by-elections consistently won by them.

Labour, which has sought to make the council election campaign a national referendum on Mrs Thatcher and her policies, as well as a verdict on the popularity of the poll tax, yesterday accused the Prime Minister of ducking the contest.

Mr Neil Kinnock said that she had been unusually coy during a contest which was the first national verdict on the poll tax. Dr Cunningham said that the Prime Minister had been "conspicuous by her absence".

Poll tax the key, page 4  
Thatcher factor, page 4  
Ronald Butt, page 12  
Leading article, page 13

## EC acts on big airlines

The European Commission yesterday declared that it is seeking powers to crack down more swiftly on big airlines using predatory tactics to squeeze out smaller rivals in the European market. Brussels wants to be able to order airlines to suspend "unfair" operations immediately rather than having to wait up to four months for the full legal procedures to run their course.

This would mean that the Commission could act within three weeks of a complaint being received. The Commission said predatory tactics included suddenly operating much higher capacity on routes, charging fares well below costs and offering passenger benefits such as frequent flyer points. Page 23

## Bills scandal

Overcharging by gas, water, electricity and telephone utilities is costing businesses, local health authorities, councils and government departments many millions of pounds a year in excessive bills, experts say. Page 2

## Virgin slander

A Pakistani bride whose husband said she was not a virgin at marriage won £20,000 slander damages in the High Court in London under a rarely invoked 19th century statute. Page 22

## Green housing

Tests on a unique design that will provide solar space and water heating for a house even in Britain's minimal exposure to sunlight, are about to take place. The system could play a large role in countering the greenhouse effect. Page 33

### INDEX

Arts	16,17
Births, marriages, deaths	16
Books	19
Court & Social	14
Crosswords	20,22
Health	18
Law Report	38
Leading articles	13
Letters	13
Obituary	14
Parliament	7
Preview	20
Science & Technology	33-36
TV & Radio	21
Weather	22

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## Local councils told to spend, spend, spend

From Joe Joseph  
Tokyo

THEY do things a little differently in Japan. As Mrs Thatcher braces for a national backlash against the poll tax in today's local elections, ratepayers here are busy working out how to squander billions of yen foisted on them by the Liberal Democratic Government.

The only proviso they have been given is not to spend it too seriously. Forget new town halls or more efficient sewers, they were told. Be imaginative.

Japan's local governments and village elders have taken the Government at its word. One backwater in Yamaguchi, central Japan, is going to invite 3,000 residents to view their village from a helicopter. Another, in Miyagi, northern Japan, wants to build the country's biggest water wheel. The world's largest gold bar has been forged. The world's

biggest hourglass, holding one tonne of sand, is on order. Japan's biggest wisteria trellis is being lashed together. Rate-capping is not a concept much mentioned.

The scheme was the brainchild of Mr Noboru Takeshita, the former Prime Minister who stepped down last year over his links to the Recruit scandal. The common practice of keeping the voters sweet has resulted in glamorous concert halls for grim villages and passengerless bullet trains for remote rural havens. Such cultivation of constituents has helped to keep the Liberal Democrats in power for 35 years.

Mr Takeshita's parting gesture before handing over the reins of power was to offer every city, town and village across the country 100 million yen (£384,615) each to squander as they saw fit. There are 3,268 such local administrations.

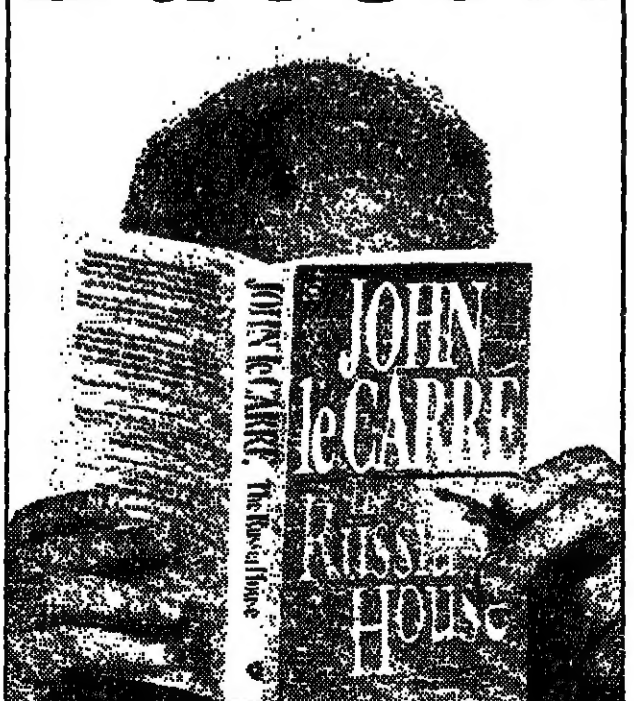
The aim was to revitalize regional areas, but critics say giving 100 million yen to every local body, however small, is throwing money away.

Awashimura-mura, a village in the rice-growing district of Niigata, is financing a poster campaign to promote the village, and hopes the publicity will lure potential wives for lonely farmers.

Two local authorities are putting fax machines in every villager's home to speed up delivery of neighbourhood announcements. Hakui, a small town on the Japan Sea coast, is building a museum shaped like a flying saucer: it says it wants to become "Japan's UFO mecca".

The generous handout will do no harm to Mr Takeshita's ambitions. Still Japan's most powerful politician, he has made it known that he would not mind being Prime Minister again.

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# Overcharging by utilities 'burdens business and public services'

By Nick Nuttall  
Technology Correspondent

**WIDESPREAD** overcharging by gas, water, electricity and telephone utilities is costing businesses, local health authorities, councils and government departments many millions of pounds a year in excessive bills, it is being claimed.

Some are paying for more units or calls than have been used because of accounting and computing errors. Others, eligible for cheaper tariffs, are being billed at higher rates because of administrative oversights and an unwillingness to make customers aware that they qualify.

Industry experts say that there are indications that privatization has aggra-

vated the scale of the problem as area offices attempt to implement new pricing policies and regulations, wider ranges of services and more varied ways of customer billing.

Last week, the Telecommunication Managers' Association disclosed that nearly 90 per cent of companies questioned said that they had been overcharged during the previous year by British Telecom.

The findings emerge from an analysis by the Inenco Group, a company specializing in utility debt recovery, which numbers many big organizations among its 3,500 clients, including brewers, publishers, health authorities and DIY chains.

Mr Phil McVan, Inenco's general

manager, said that over the past 12 months, £1.2 million of the £6 million recovered for clients was for direct overcharging. Generally, the cases involved customers being billed for more calls or units than they had used.

Of the £1.2 million recovered, £800,000 came from telephone bills and £400,000 from water and energy-related bills.

Mr McVan said: "In water, charges are raised by water companies and also by water authorities in isolation. Because the administrative systems are not so smart, errors can occur."

There are also cases where customers have meters that calculate in old imperial units, whereas the central meters at the utility are metric. That,

too, can lead to excessive and inaccurate bills, the firm has found.

Five years ago, Inenco was recovering an annual average of £1,000 a client for overcharging, said Mr McVan, but this had grown to £5,000 a year. He said that with telephone accounts, debt recovery growth had been "phenomenal", with recovery rising 490 per cent over the five years since privatization.

The problem can also affect private telephone bills. Yesterday, it emerged that Maureen Lipman, who plays Beattie in BT's television commercials, was overcharged and threatened with being cut off on her car telephone bill after what the company admitted was a computing error.

The remaining 80 per cent of debt

recovery by Inenco on behalf of utility customers comes from so-called "grey areas", including cases where clients have been charged at high rates when they were eligible for lower tariffs.

Mr McVan said: "The utilities tell us that the customer is responsible for his choice. In our view, if there is choice, and one rate is cheaper than another, this is an overcharge."

Even when utilities decide that it is in their interests to tell customers of discounts, administrative errors could occur. Over the past few days, several clients with potential electricity rebates of between £5,000 and £40,000 have been identified. In the run-up to privatization, area electricity boards have been competing to keep some

business customers by offering reductions. However, poor record-keeping has led to some of these customers being overlooked, according to Mr McVan.

Inenco says that organizations that once rubber-stamped bills are now consulting recovery firms, with health authorities, wishing to conserve funds for patient care, referring accounts.

A spokesman for BT said that, given the accuracy of its call-charging equipment, bill errors were rare. If there had been growth in debt recovery on telephone bills, the mistakes were probably due to installation fee errors. It was rapid growth in telecommunications and re-organizations in the City of London that had made it difficult to keep records up to date, rather than privatization.

## Civil Service staff 'told to smash police by Militant'

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

**MINISTERS** are studying a document backed by supporters of the Militant Tendency that exhorted union members to attend the March 31 anti-poll tax demonstration and "smash Thatcher and her police force".

Mr Tommy Sheridan and Mr Steve Nally, Militant members and leaders of the Anti-Poll Tax Federation, have publicly condemned the violence, looting and burning that took place as police battled with rioters in the West End of London.

The document, which ministers now have in their possession, shows that members of Britain's biggest civil service union were exhorted to attend the demonstration and urged to support a campaign

of mass non-payment of the community charge. The document, circulated to branches of the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA), also instructed union members to refuse to carry out their statutory duties in implementing poll tax legislation.

Leaders of the 150,000 strong union, which represents mainly lower paid workers, are convinced the document which, in contravention of the law does not bear a publisher's name, is part of a hard-left campaign to recapture control of the ruling national executive committee.

Militant Tendency regards the union as the "jewel in the crown" of its influence in the trade union movement; it is working to regain control in the elections for the executive that are under way at present. At least 15 of the 26 Broad Left candidates standing in the election are Militant supporters and others have hard-left views unwelcome in the Labour Party.

## No new law to fight class thugs

Teachers will not get legal backing to sue the parents of young classroom thugs, it was announced yesterday.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education, in a parliamentary answer, ruled out making parents responsible in civil law for children who attack teachers or vandalise classrooms. Legal backing for teachers' authority was also dismissed.

Teaching unions criticized the move, saying teachers needed more support to combat classroom violence.

The decisions came after the inquiry into school discipline headed by Lord Elton which last year urged the Government to explore possible legislation. There was concern that criminal law does not cover children under 10.

## Bomber crash

An American F-111 fighter-bomber aircraft from Lakenheath, Suffolk, crashed close to the Norfolk village of Binham yesterday, showering houses with wreckage. No one was hurt and the two man crew ejected safely.

## Killer detained

Kevin Doherty, aged 13, who stabbed another boy to death, was yesterday ordered by Lord Allanbridge, at the High Court in Edinburgh, to be detained for five years. Doherty, of Blantyre, Lanarkshire, was found guilty at the High Court in Airdrie of the culpable homicide of Stuart Thomson, also 13.

## Bomb victim

A civilian filter employed by the Ministry of Defence is believed to have lost both legs yesterday when a boot-trapped bomb exploded beneath the Territorial Army vehicle he was driving in Lisburn, Co Antrim. The mechanic is critically ill in the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast.

## Pay warning

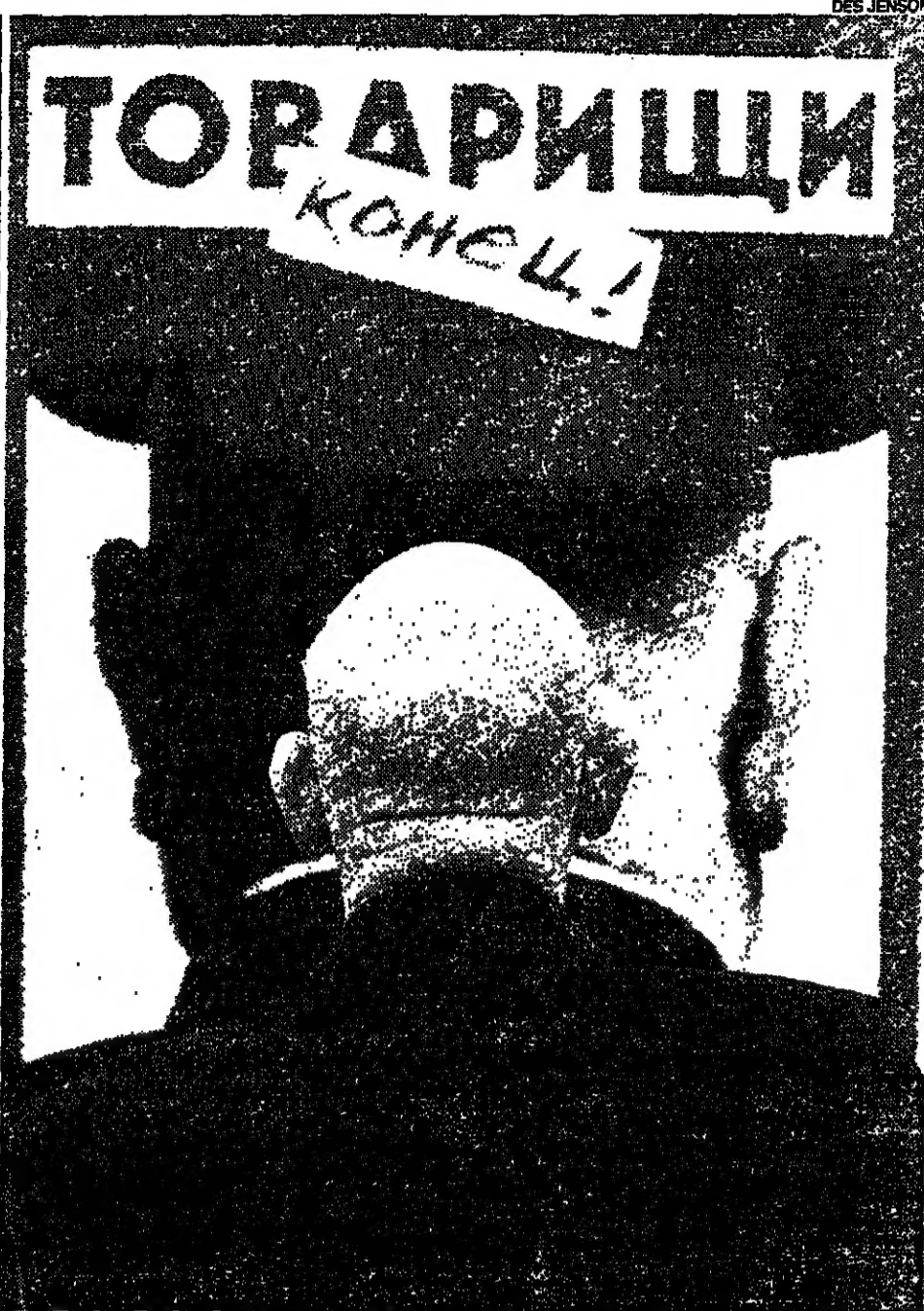
The Association of First Division Civil Servants presented a pay claim yesterday of 12 per cent for junior entrants to the "fast stream". The union said the Civil Service faced a deepening recruitment crisis unless graduate entrants were paid salaries comparable to those in the private sector.

## Museum talks

Dr Neil Chalmers, director of the Natural History Museum in London, is to meet union representatives this morning in the hope of averting a further one-day strike tomorrow over the proposed loss of 100 posts. Letters, page 13

## CORRECTION

The Hungarian State Opera Company was to have been brought to Britain by the London Festival of Opera, not the London International Opera Festival as reported on April 11.



Comrades' farewell: A poster celebrating the departure from Hungary of the KGB along with Russian forces comes under surveillance at an exhibition of political posters from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union which opened yesterday at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London

## Piracy law would halt decoder use

By John Lewis, Political Staff

A **PIRACY** law to stop viewers using decoders to pick up films and other satellite broadcasts from abroad without paying for them is being drawn up by the Government.

Mr David Mellor, minister responsible for broadcasting, said yesterday that he was considering proposals to strengthen the law as there was concern by British satellite broadcasters that the present controls were too weak.

He said Film Net, a satellite service from Benelux countries, showing English language films mainly to Scandinavia was easily "locked into" with the help of decoders. It was estimated that 20 to 30 per cent of those with Astra satellite dishes also had decoders capable of breaking into Film Net channels and allowing viewers to watch them for nothing.

Often films being shown were the same as those being shown by BSB and Sky, which offer pay services in Britain. That was unfair.

Mr Mellor said British television services were already protected under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. The initial thinking was that the protection should not be extended to other countries, except on a reciprocal basis. "We regard it as essential that broadcasters should be protected against piracy. This Government is committed to a policy of opening up greater choice in broadcasting, but we must, at the same time, ensure that the proprietary rights of the broadcasters are protected. We are determined that the development of a healthy television industry should not be damaged by

piracy," Mr Mellor said.

The new law was likely to act against those who sold or distributed the decoders. The intention was to amend the Broadcasting Bill, which expected to begin its report stage in the Commons for two and a half days next week. The amendment would be tabled in the Lords.

Mr Mellor, who revealed that the Government was to put down 500 amendments to the Bill, also disclosed that he was considering the scrapping of performance bonds. The bonds were to ensure that companies awarded new franchises in 1993 lived up to their promises on quality.

The minister said the Government had been in danger of scoring an own goal by making it easier to pay fines through insurance. This had been put right in the Committee Stage of the Bill, but he was now looking to see if the performance bonds were "robust" enough to do the job for which they were intended or whether they should be replaced by an extra heavy fine.

If performance bonds remained and a television company faced bankruptcy, the Treasury might become a preferential creditor when there was no reason why it should be. What might be simpler, when it was a question of terminating a franchise, would be to impose a heavy fine, perhaps the equivalent of 7 per cent of turnover.

This would be a substantial additional penalty if the licence had to be removed, but it would give the Independent Television Commission discretion if it felt the company was not wholly at fault.

## Spencer vision sold for £1.3m

By John Shaw

**STANLEY** Spencer's prices reached new heights yesterday as a Crucifixion scene set in Cookham High Street, Berkshire, made £1,320,000 at Sotheby's in London.

It was a new record for the artist whose visionary pictures have been increasingly sought at auction. The painting, appearing on the market for the first time, was the top lot in a modern British picture sale which made £3,583,635 (17 per cent unsold).

The study was commissioned from Spencer for the chapel at Aldenham School, Hertfordshire. It was bought by Mr Ivor Braka, a London dealer. He said: "I think this particular picture is one of the most dramatic post-war paintings produced in England."

A celebrated love affair between Sir William Orpen and Yvonne Aubiq, daughter of the Mayor of Lille, whom he met while an official war artist in 1917, was recalled in a sensuous nude, "Early Morning", which made another artist's record of £319,000 (£100,000-150,000).

It showed her sitting cross-legged on the floor. Orpen passed off his two earliest pictures of her as portraits of a German spy in order to justify them to the War Office. She acquired overnight fame even after the truth emerged that she was the artist's mistress.

There were seven other artist's records in the sale, including those for Rodric O'Connor (£143,000; Sickert (£77,000); William Roberts (£82,500); and Jack Butler Yeats (£77,000).

## BRITISH HOSTAGES

### McCarthy fit and well freed captive says

By David Sapsted

A **TELEPHONE** call shortly before 10am yesterday gave the Friends of John McCarthy in London the news that they had waited four years to hear.

The caller, from a United States base in Wiesbaden, West Germany, was Mr Frank Reed, released by his Lebanese captors barely 48 hours earlier. His message was simple: he had seen Mr John McCarthy and Mr Brian Keenan alive and reasonably well last Saturday.

Ms Joan Willows, one of the campaigners staffing the office at the headquarters of the National Union of Journalists, said: "We have had a few false reports in the last few years but this was an astonishing experience to be in an office and receive the first positive news that John is alive."

"Mr Reed said he saw the

two men last Saturday night. They seem to have been held together for a long time. John has grown a beard. He does loads of exercises every day - squat thrusts and push ups; and he reads a lot.

As far as his captors could be they are quite good. He is not being tortured though he has, apparently, had some minor health problems," she said.

Later, Mr Reed spoke to Mr Patrick McCarthy, John's father, and Miss Jill Morrell, his long-time friend and journalistic colleague.

Miss Morrell, who has led the campaign for Mr McCarthy's release, said: "It is absolutely fantastic - it's the best news we have had. I can hardly believe it. I don't quite know what to do about it."

Mr Reed told her Mr McCarthy was being kept blind-

folded most of the time. "He said John was in good health and good spirits and as well as can be expected really. He said John is taking advantage of the time they get to exercise in the mornings and keeps himself fit," she said.

"He had seen John as recently as a few days ago, and had been with him for quite a long time. John was in good health and good spirits. This is the first strong news we have had of him. It is fantastic."

Mr Patrick McCarthy said after his conversation with Mr Reed that he was now cautiously optimistic that his journalist son, taken hostage four years ago, would eventually be released.

"This is the only first-hand news we have ever had of John," Mr McCarthy, of Cornish Hall End, near Saffron Walden, Essex, said.

## Extrovert broke security rule on day of departure

By Nicholas Beeston

**MR JOHN** McCarthy may be closer to freedom today than at any time since his abduction. For his colleagues in Beirut and London, however, there is little hope that the fresh-faced young television reporter who disappeared more than four years ago will be the same person who one day emerges from captivity.

It was typical of Mr McCarthy that he should have insisted on a warm farewell with the Lebanese he had befriended in his first assignment abroad when he set off in April 1986 for Beirut International Airport. It was just as typical of Beirut that in his last hour he was betrayed to the kidnappers.

Mr McCarthy had arrived in Beirut in the spring of 1986 on his first foreign assignment, standing in for the bureau chief of Worldwide Television News. "He is an adventurous sort, good-humoured and slightly extrovert," his father, Mr Patrick McCarthy, said. "He was all agog and very much looking forward to going to Beirut."

Within days of his arrival his boyish smile was a familiar sight at the militia chiefs' press conferences as well as the restaurants and bars frequented by the shrinking foreign press corps.

Like most newcomers to Lebanon, Mr McCarthy found himself seduced by its beauty, the hospitality of its people and the excitement of covering the war. He telephoned his parents that Beirut was not the horror story he had read about before the trip, but a surprisingly normal city and occasionally "quite monotonous".

What neither he nor the other British journalists could foresee was the very real

danger they became exposed to on April 16 when US F-111s bombed Tripoli from bases in Britain.

Within hours of the news reaching the streets of Beirut, Libyan-backed groups had put a price on the head of every British male. Freelance kidnappers scoured the notorious airport road for Western faces and attempted to kidnap another British journalist outside Mr McCarthy's hotel.

Mr McCarthy, who had been ordered home for his safety by WTN, broke one of the foremost security rules by bidding goodbye to his friends, the staff of the Commodore Hotel near by and the drivers just before he set off in a two-car convoy to catch his flight. His drivers took the

precaution of following backstreets and avoiding the main routes leading to the airport where he might get recognized as a foreigner at one of the many checkpoints.

He had been travelling only a few minutes, however, when the car was intercepted outside the ruins of the old Spinneys supermarket. Someone with a walkie-talkie had witnessed Mr McCarthy's last act of kindness and his preparations to leave and tipped off the accomplices.

It is suspected that the men who pointed their automatic rifles at him and hustled him into the car were freelancers who planned to resell Mr McCarthy to his present captors, believed to be Iranian-backed Shia Muslims.

## Irishman safe who forgot passport

existence and independence from Britain.

No Middle East government had a political disagreement with Dublin and his kidnappers could not expect to receive anything in return for his release. It was probable that the gunman who kidnapped Mr Keenan had mistaken him for a British citizen.

Two weeks earlier, two of his British colleagues, Mr Leigh Douglas and Mr Philip Padfield, had been abducted in a similar fashion.

Any hope of a speedy release was shattered five days later when US Air Force bombers raided Libya and an open season was declared in Beirut on all Westerners, particularly Britons and Americans.

Mr Douglas, Mr Padfield and an American librarian were killed. Mr John McCarthy, the British television journalist with whom he was destined to spend much of his time in captivity, was seized as he made his way to the airport.

Yesterday's announcement by Mr Frank Reed, the released American hostage, that he spent most of his three years in captivity with Mr Keenan and that he last saw him on Saturday, is the confirmation his family has been waiting for.



Mr McCarthy: Betrayed to freelance kidnappers



Mr Brian Keenan: Held for four years

## Slander award boosts Asian women's equal rights struggle

By Tom Giles

**MEMBERS** of Britain's Asian community last night welcomed the High Court's decision in awarding slander damages to a Pakistani bride whose husband had accused her of being not a virgin at marriage. They claimed it would provide a test case for women struggling for greater independence against traditional marital values.

"This is a very positive decision, which will encourage many Asian women," Ms Geeta Amin, an Asian community worker in Ealing, west London, said. "It will be a great incentive to lots of younger women across the Asian community, not just Pakistani as in this

case, who wish to oppose their circumstances."

However, for many Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi women living in Britain, accusations of a premarital relationship can still bring shame upon them and cast a shadow over the social standing of their families. Caught uncomfortably between two cultures, many have to measure new social expectations against values which, in European terms, can seem decidedly archaic.

"Many Asian women here are still fundamentally oppressed," Mrs Sudrasha Abrol, who runs an advice centre in Birmingham for Asian women, said. "But there is a

great culture clash for them when they live in a society in which sex is promoted everywhere." She added: "The girls are so protected at home - going to single sex schools and often being forbidden to go out by themselves - that most never have anything to do with boys before they are married. But if the girl gets pregnant before marriage, there's no pardon for it and it's a social stigma that leads many girls to run away from home. It's a very stressful situation."

Although such religious constraints are multi-denominational, the rigour with which they are imposed varies from each community, albeit Hindu, Muslim or Sikh.

Mrs Habrol, who is 50, emigrated to a Birmingham from the Punjab in 1963. Since then she has found many women in her area, which is predominantly Sikh, are under strong pressure to conform to traditions of arranged marriages.

A fixed dowry must be paid to the groom's parents, fundamental importance is attached to the virginity of wives and marriage outside one's caste or religion is frowned upon. "When the men have an affair with an English woman, no-one condemns it. But if a woman goes out with another, it is condemned and she is in disgrace. The man cannot be proved to be a virgin, but the

woman has to be. "I have at least two girls coming into my office every day because of problems with their arranged marriage or with domestic violence."

However, Mrs Tara Kothari, a founding member of the UK Asian Women's Conference, said that attitudes to exogamy were more flexible in her own Hindu community in north London. "My family is from the Gujarat region of India. In my part of the world there not much pressure on the girl. If she wanted to marry an outsider we would let her, but it would still be very poorly thought of if she had a pre-marital relationship."

One of Mrs Kothari's daughters

has married an Englishman and been through a British university, but she is still conscious that the pressures upon those from other Asian communities, especially Muslim. She described attitudes among many Muslim families from Pakistan, as "fanatical".

Another woman who runs a refuge for Asian girls in Birmingham said the problem lay in their economic reliance upon their families. "Most Asian women rely on society and their family but when they are economically free they will begin to stand up for their rights. This case will encourage them. We are trying to give them the confidence to do this."

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# Secrecy at police hearings criticized

By Stewart Tisdall, Crime Correspondent

POLICE disciplinary hearings are surrounded by too much secrecy, leaving complainants and the public unaware of the punishment meted out to erring officers, the Police Complaints Authority said yesterday.

A complainant may be allowed to give evidence to a hearing but will be excluded once a finding of guilty or innocence has been found. The authority, in its report for 1989, noted: "As a result the process gives the appearance of being shrouded in mystery which detracts from the credibility of the system."

Most forces, the authority said, merely said that suitable action would be taken and the report itself was sometimes surprised by the results of hearings. It noted: "If we with our special knowledge of cases are mystified, it is not surprising that complainants and others are as well."

Forces helped the authority by providing details of disciplinary decisions, but one force took secrecy to the point, the report said, that it "positively resented any attempt at finding out what transpired". The authority did not identify the force.

The report also had strong

## Poor crime clear-up rate dents confidence

By David Young

FOUR out of five people are generally satisfied with the way the police do their job, according to a survey by the Consumers' Association magazine *Which?* More than half the people who took part, however, say that they think police tend to discriminate against certain groups, most say that the police need to improve their image and a third say they doubt the fairness of police investigations and the police complaints procedure.

More than a third of the 3,600 people in the survey had had personal contact with the police in the past two years, in half of the cases through reporting incidents such as burglary, vandalism, car theft or an accident. Of those, three-quarters were satisfied with the way they were treated, but the others said they were disappointed.

The most common reason given for disappointment was that the police did not seem to do anything. Most were dissatisfied because no culprits were caught and no stolen property was recovered. One in six of those dissatisfied said that they felt that way because they did not receive any follow-up information from the police or because they felt the police were not interested.

Which also reports that many private pay phones in public houses, shops and restaurants are flouting official rules with hidden charges. Some owners profit by charging calls at three times the British Telecom rate, the association found.

It said that Ofel, the government watchdog body for the industry, said two years ago that private pay phones would give a better service and more choice. Owners must display the call rate and a contact in case of complaints, but a survey by Which found rules being broken. Of 12 phones tested, four gave less than the 80 seconds a BT pay phone gives for 10p for a cheap rate local call. One private pay phone gave 25 seconds for 10p.

Leading article, page 13

words and doubts about the way disciplinary cases were presented, saying that some cases were not presented as vigorously as the authority believed they should be and that in others the facts were presented "the way the police see them rather than the way that we representing the public see them".

The report, which disclosed a 14 per cent increase in cases referred to the authority last year for possible supervision and an 11 per cent increase in cases reported for a review of disciplinary action, also expressed anxiety about whether detectives were honouring codes of conduct for handling suspects under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

The codes have been in force for four years but the report noted detectives investigating serious crimes were tempted to pay less than full attention to them. They cover areas such as the right of access to lawyers and lay out the position of the suspect in custody. But the report concluded that detectives may treat the codes as mere administrative guidance, although breaches are a disciplinary offence.

Commenting on the report, Judge Petre, the chairman, said the increase in cases showed greater trust by the public in the complaints system. At the same time more cases were being referred to the authority by the police for supervision even though they were not always required to do so.

Asked if the increases reflected growing disillusionment with the police and the crisis of public confidence, the judge said statistics were always difficult to assess.

The report dismissed suggestions that an independent investigation arm should be created and the judge said: "The present system is a good one because it combines exactly what the public needs."

The judge said that the authority had expressed its support for the release of complainants' statements to complainants. Those are now kept by the police.

The judge said that more than 60 per cent of complaints made against police officers were dealt with informally or withdrawn before they were ever investigated by the police or examined in supervised cases by the authority.

The report showed that in 1989 the authority had 5,008 cases referred to it for a decision on whether they should be supervised by the PCA. That was a 14 per cent increase on 4,397 cases in 1988. The authority began supervising 879 cases compared with 804 in 1988.

Last year the authority recommended 53 disciplinary charges in 20 cases where the deputy chief officer who had been dealing with the case had initially recommended no disciplinary charges. Twenty-six charges were eventually proved.

The Police Complaints Authority said the investigation of allegations against officers from the former West Midlands Serious Crime Squad has become so large that extra staff may have to be recruited.



Judge Petre: "Public has trust over complaints"



The Flying Scotsman marking its return to British tracks at Didcot Station, Oxfordshire, after its tour of Australia in 1988 and 1989, when it made a record non-stop run of 422 miles between Melbourne and Alice Springs. Yesterday it took the press and VIPs on a trip to Banbury

## 'Opportunist' snatches £291m in paper money

By David Sapsted

A MUGGER escaped with more than £290 million in negotiable bonds yesterday after attacking a money broker's messenger in the City of London. The perpetrator stands to make not a penny from the crime, however.

Within the hour, the Bank of England had flashed a warning on the City's market dealing screens detailing the documents stolen. The message said: "There may be an attempt to present these certificates, and bona fides should be extremely carefully checked, with all precautions taken."

The mugger, in his late twenties and dressed in a brown leather bomber jacket, attacked Mr John Goddard, aged 58, an employee of Sheppards money brokers, at about 9.30am in Nicholas Lane, a quiet sidestreet off Cannon Street. The man held a knife to his throat and demanded money before taking the briefcase. In it were certificates of deposit valued at £121.9 million and Treasury bills worth £170 million.

City of London detectives and officials of the Bank of England said last night they believed the robber was purely an opportunist: "If anyone

wanted to use these certificates in the money markets, they would have had to have done so very soon after the crime. We have no evidence that that happened," a City detective said.

The Bank of England has plans for a Central Money Markets Office to be established later this year to enable such paper money transactions to be carried out on computer, obviating the need for messengers.

There are only three ways the certificates of deposit and Treasury bills could be turned into cash: by waiting for them to mature; by selling them on the market; or by borrowing against their collateral value. In the first case, the bills will not now be honoured and, in the last two, the Bank of England believes the professional markets have been sufficiently forewarned.

However, City dealers said neither the certificates, which have a minimum value of £100,000, nor the bills issued by the Bank of England on behalf of the Treasury, were as strictly regulated as the trade in bearer certificates. Had yesterday's robbery been carried out by an organized gang familiar with the money mar-

kets, there could have been substantial losses.

The City of London police appealed for witnesses. The thief, aged between 25 and 28, 5ft 10in tall and black, was last seen running west along Cannon Street. Sheppards, a subsidiary of Cater Allen Holdings and no longer connected with Sheppards Stockbrokers, declined to comment on the attack.

A side-effect of the mugging was that almost £300 million was missing from the City's money market's liquidity. The Bank of England stepped in with £300 million of aid to help the market avoid problems for the owners of the bonds and eliminate the risk that the shortage would increase overnight money market lending rates.

## Chips are up for fast food fans

By Ruth Gledhill

TUCKING into smoked salmon, fish and chips and frozen yoghurt, exhibitors at the fast food show at Wembley said yesterday there was more to takeaways than pizzas and hamburgers.

The industry cheered Mr David Maclean, the food minister, who pointed out that such favourites are rich in protein, vitamins and minerals, but said that to escape the "junk food" image, next year's exhibition would be renamed Bite '91.

Besides the traditional fast foods, visitors could sample smoked gravlax or Japanese-style salmon marinated in ginger from a Dagenham firm, or chicken tikka sandwiches with granary bread from a Sussex couple. The Product Connection sold kettle-cooked

crisps, garlic and cinnamon bagel chips, cheddar popcorn and Klaus Swiss chocolates; and a private exhibit offered a herb and cheese pizza topped with apple, kiwi fruit, mandarins and bananas.

But the most popular stand by far was that selling fish and chips. Mr Ken Axworthy, president of the National Federation of Fish Friers, said the industry had escaped its "wrapped in newspaper" image. It is now possible to study for a City and Guilds certificate in fish frying, and the first 14 will be presented on Tuesday week.

But the one thing that could not be had yesterday was a decent cup of leaf tea - probably because the three-minute brewing time is just not fast enough.

## Vets are dismayed by veto on dog register

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

The British Veterinary Association yesterday said it was "dismayed and disappointed" by the Government's veto of proposals for a dog registration scheme.

Mr John Bower, president of the association, said the scheme could help to prevent some attacks by dogs on children by making the animals' owners more responsible for controlling them.

"We do not understand the Government's opposition to measures which appear to attract wide support throughout the country and which would be to society's general benefit," he said at a news conference in London.

A proposal to introduce the scheme through the Environmental Protection Bill was defeated by 12 votes in the House of Commons on Monday after the Government imposed a three-line whip: 50 Conservative MPs voted in favour, however.

"If it had been a free vote the decision would have gone the other way," Mr Bower said. The registration of dogs would not make the animals safer but would make their owners more responsible. It might help to prevent a dog making a second attack.

The association was against formal moves to restrict or ban certain breeds of dogs, such as Rottweilers. But the importing into Britain of pit bull terriers, which were bred to be aggressive, was regrettable, Mr Bower said. "Any dog that is genetically selected for aggression is unwelcome in this country."

An Alsatian and a Rottweiler which ripped open the face of a girl, aged four, on Monday were yesterday at the home of their owner, Mr Aston Markland, of Dudley, West Midlands, who has been warned by police that he faces a court order to have them destroyed.

Caroline Williams needed 200 stitches in her face. She was attacked as she played in a field near her home. Her mother has called for the dogs to be destroyed.

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# THEY LEFT OUT THE BEST BIT.

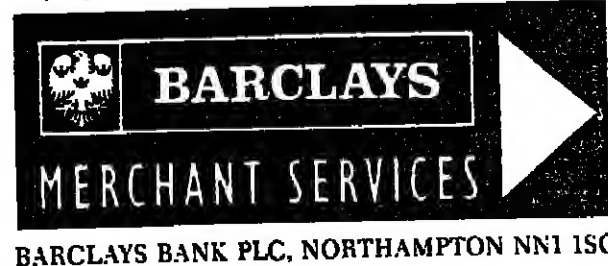
Signet Limited - formerly The Joint Credit Card Company Limited - has written to many retailers withdrawing its services as an acquirer of credit card transactions as from 31st May 1990. They advised retailers to make new arrangements. Now the best bit.

The letter omitted to inform readers that Barclays Merchant Services, the world's largest card processor, already offers the complete service for ALL Visa and MasterCard transactions. And it is available now.

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## Entrepreneurs to start at five

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

ENTREPRENEURIAL skills will be instilled into children from the age of five as part of the National Curriculum, Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

As well as basic business studies, pupils will be taught how to be effective consumers and how to organize their personal finances to avoid running into debt.

"Increasingly, our prosperity as a nation will depend on the knowledge, skills and understanding of young people," Mr MacGregor said.

"One good way of developing those qualities is through business and community enterprise projects, which have clear objectives and are integrated into the curriculum."

However, as Mr MacGregor was speaking at the launch of a guidance document for schools on the new approach, produced by the National Curriculum Council, Mr Alastair Graham, director of the Industrial Society, launched a new attack on enterprise education in schools.

At the final of the Student Innovation for Business Award in London, Mr Graham said: "Much of the natural enterprise flair of youngsters is trained out of them by the education system."

Schools should do more to build enterprise into the curriculum and not just treat it as a bolt-on extra, he said. "Much more needs to be done to ensure that the spirit of

enterprise is bedded into the culture of this country."

Although the coincidence of the two events was apparently accidental, the curriculum council document appeared to meet Mr Graham's criticism head-on.

It called for enterprise education to become a "cross-curricular theme" in the new curriculum and said studies should help pupils to develop skills and understanding beyond purely commercial considerations.

In particular, the document cited the need to encourage children to understand the consequences for the environment and human rights of their economic and financial decisions.

Mr Duncan Graham, chief

executive of the curriculum council, said the new entrepreneurial approach would be spread through existing subjects.

In English pupils could be encouraged to read literature about poverty to understand distribution of wealth, in history they could study the development of trade, while science would provide the forum for considering waste disposal and re-cycling.

Thirty teachers at Sylvan High School, Croydon, south London, which is being converted into a City Technology College, walked out on a two-day strike yesterday in protest at the disruption caused by building work. The strikers are all members of the National Union of Teachers.







# Law colleges start night classes as demand soars

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

AN OVERWHELMING demand from students seeking to qualify as solicitors has prompted a unprecedented decision by the five colleges of law in England and Wales to start night classes for several hundred extra students.

The full-time courses, which will create an extra 614 places in September, are being held as a one-off emergency measure to cope with what is amounting almost to a crisis in the mismatch between demand and places.

Mr Richard Holbrook, chairman of the board of the management of The College of Law, said the college was "very concerned about the high level of unmet demand for places on courses leading to the Law Society's final examination".

Throughout the country, taking both the five colleges of law and the eight polytechnics which run the Law Society's vocational course, there are about 4,000 places for students wishing to qualify as solicitors. However, there are

now about 8,000 students seeking places for the courses, from 5pm to 9pm, starting in September.

Mr Holbrook said that there was duplication from the 850 students who went on the Bar's vocational course. Many of those applied for a place on the Law Society course as a fall-back and the places would not be taken up. Others would decide they did not want to train as a lawyer.

"But whatever you say about the figures, one has to acknowledge that there is a very significant shortage of places at the moment. Our whole raison d'être is to provide the education the profession needs," he added. "It is a bit hollow if we are not able to service the profession and cannot deliver the goods when there is a crisis."

He added that it had only been possible to launch the courses because of the commitment and enthusiasm of the college staff who had volunteered to run the evening courses.

Mrs Jenny Treleven, a member of the board of management from the Lancaster Gate branch, said she had been "astonished" at the staff response. "This goes way beyond what they are contractually required to do."

The increased demand for places is thought to come largely from non-law graduates. The annual intake of law students to universities and polytechnics throughout the country is 5,300, making almost 3,000 students from other subjects or mixed disciplines.

Mr Holbrook said that the philosophy of the college had been to provide a place for all those wanting one. In the long-term, however, the demand is going to bring about a new policy of selection.

The Law Society has changed the rules so that places will no longer be offered on a "first-come, first-served basis". From September 1991, The College of Law will be able to select the students it wants.

The crisis will be slightly eased by new courses expected to start this autumn at Leicester Polytechnic and the Polytechnic of Wales. The College of Law itself has already created extra places with the opening of its York branch. With the night courses this September it will be offering 762 more places than in 1989-90 and 1,268 more than in 1988-89.

However, it was questionable whether the profession would be able to assimilate all the students wanting to qualify, even if they had places, Mr Holbrook said.

Mrs Jennifer Israel, chairman of the society's race relations committee, said: "Clearly there is more work to do in persuading and educating firms of solicitors about improving recruitment practices."

The profession, the report says, should overhaul the criteria and selection procedures for articulated clerks. *Ethnic Minorities and Recruitment to the Solicitors' Profession* (Law Society Shop, 227 The Strand, London WC2; £4.95)



Mrs Israel: "Firms need to improve recruitment"

## Old tyres may provide power for Midlands

By Craig Seton and Nick Nuttall

THE first British power plant capable of incinerating at least half of the 25 million old tyres dumped annually while providing electricity for up to 20,000 homes may be built near Birmingham.

The company behind the scheme, Elm Energy and Recycling, of Hebron, Connecticut, is investigating four potential sites within 15 miles of the city for the £32 million plant, it was disclosed yesterday.

Mrs Anne Evans, Elm's president, said that it had submitted plans to the Department of Energy to try to benefit from government support for alternative energy projects. Elm was confident

that the plant would be environmentally safe and could end the dumping of waste rubber at land-fill sites.

Mrs Evans said that if the plant were approved, it could be running by 1992, with its electricity offered to the privatized Midland Electricity company. The process had been used in the United States. Steel, zinc oxide and gypsum waste were recycled.

Friends of the Earth and poverty groups, including Neighbourhood Energy Action, have made a joint call for investment in more efficient use of energy in low-income households to combat the misery of cold homes and to reduce greenhouse-effect gases.



Closely observed flower: Rachel Postlethwaite, aged four, takes a close look at one of our rarest wild flowers, the snake's head fritillary, at the National Nature Reserve at North Meadow, by the Thames at Cricklade. The plant was once commonly found along the Thames Valley

## Academic seeks UK's 'black bourgeoisie'

By Craig Seton

A RESEARCH project has begun to assess the growth of what is said to be a new "black elite" of Asian and Afro-Caribbean entrepreneurs who are overcoming racial and commercial barriers to succeed in business.

Professor Ellis Cashmore, who will head the project at the University of Aston, Birmingham, said yesterday that he believed that the emerging black middle class was another side of

the story of deprivation and disadvantage frequently associated with Britain's ethnic minorities.

Professor Cashmore, aged 40, a sociologist at the University of Tampa, Florida, is a visiting fellow at Aston, where researchers from the university's business school have joined his project team.

He wants to interview Asian and Afro-Caribbean entrepreneurs in order to understand the reasons for their success in business. He believes

that the growth of a black British middle class could be similar to the emergence of a "black bourgeoisie" in the United States, where an estimated 20 per cent of blacks have become high-earners, while the majority of their community continue to struggle in relative poverty.

Professor Cashmore said yesterday: "I think there is an emergent black middle class in this country, but it has emerged probably over the last five years. There are now a greater number

of black business owners than ever before, but how solidly they are established is the question."

He said he wanted to discover whether black entrepreneurs had been encouraged by the business climate created by the Thatcher Government or whether they had gone into business on their own as the only alternative to unemployment.

Professor Cashmore added: "I think there has been too much gloom and doom and despair."

## Listeria may be made notifiable

By Sheila Gunn  
Political Reporter

THE Department of Health is considering whether to make listeria a notifiable disease to compel doctors to report suspected cases to the authorities.

In response to demands from the Commons social services committee, the department indicated enthusiasm yesterday for the committee's recommendation to include listeria in the updated list being compiled.

It said that more than 500 letters had been sent to the department over the list with many suggesting adding other diseases, including listeria. The latest figures disclose a small drop in the number of deaths in England and Wales from listeria, including abortions, from 63 in 1988 to 55 last year. But the committee is concerned that some deaths and miscarriages due to the disease may escape diagnosis unless it is made notifiable.

The department will start a study next month to find out women's views about being questioned over their eating habits while pregnant.

*Food Poisoning: Listeria and Listeriosis* (Government's response to the Commons social services committee's 1st report, Stationery Office; £1.75)

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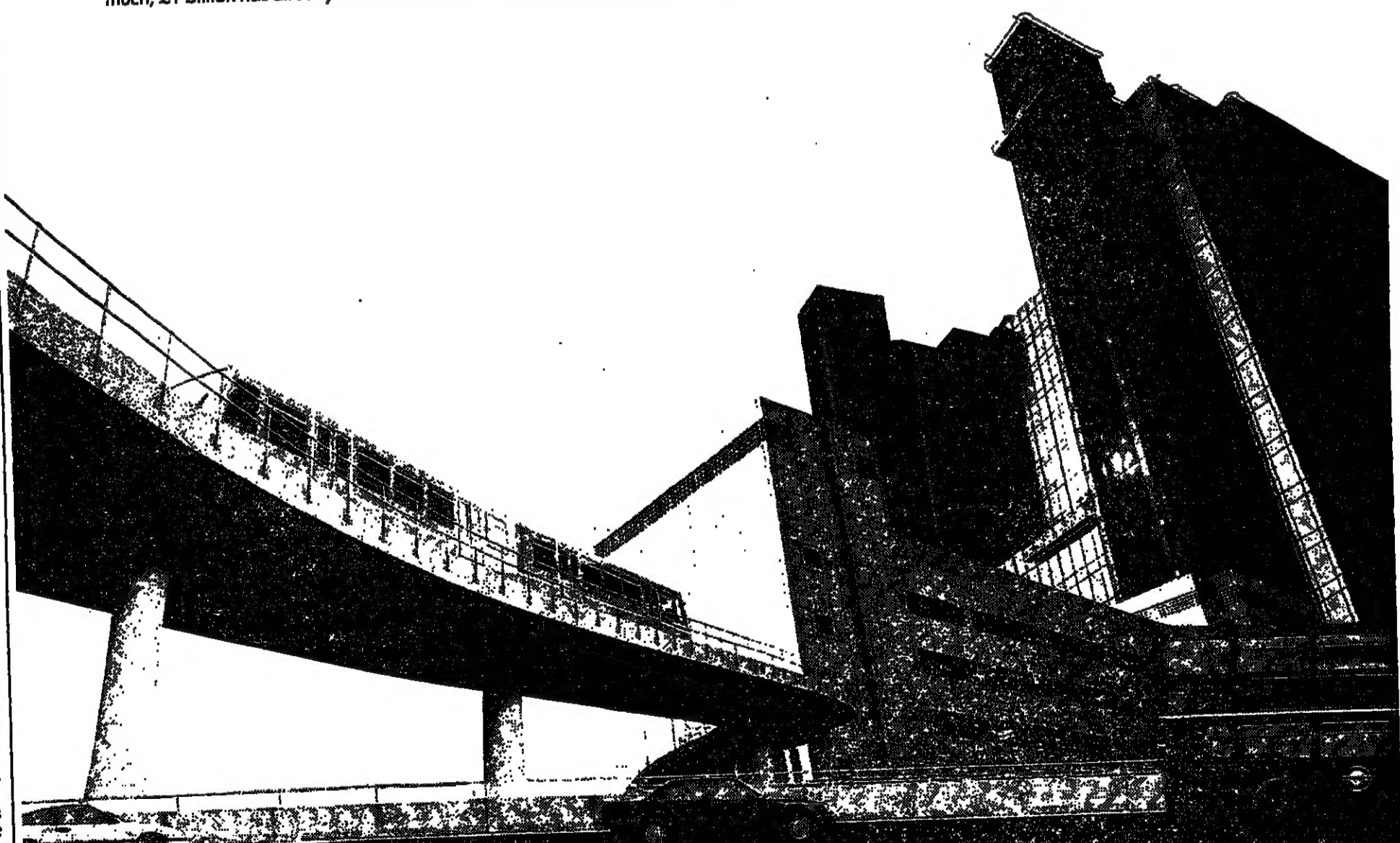
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## Wolff now latest US grandmaster

By Raymond Keene  
Chess Correspondent

PATRICK Wolff, the US master aged 22 from Boston, crowned a good result in the Watson Farley and Williams International Chess Tournament in the City of London by clinching his grandmaster title with one round to spare. He drew with Murray Chandler, of England, on Tuesday to secure the vital ½ point, giving him the 8½ required.

He shares the lead in the tournament with Bent Larsen, the Danish grandmaster aged 55. Today's last round will decide who wins the race between the old master and the young hopeful. Wolff plays white against Julian Hodgson, the grandmaster from London, and top placed British player in the competition. Larsen has the black pieces against Paul Motwani, the Scottish master.

## Old tyres may provide power for Midlands

By Craig Seton and Nick Nuttall

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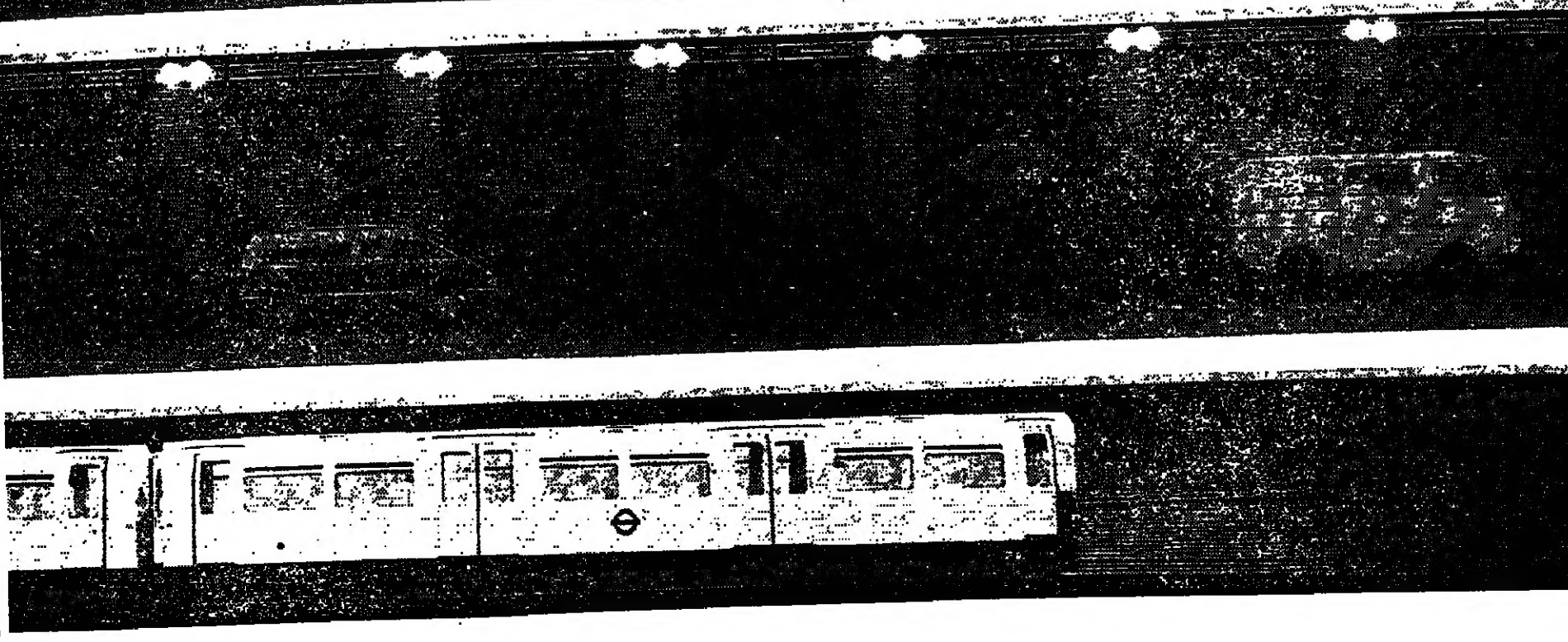
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Friends of the Earth and poverty groups, including Neighbourhood Energy Action, have made a joint call for investment in more efficient use of energy in low-income households to combat the misery of cold homes and to reduce greenhouse-effect gases.





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# Patten defends conservancy council division

THE Government's proposal to divide the Nature Conservancy Council into four country-based councils was defended in the Commons last night by Mr Christopher Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Speaking during the report stage of Environmental Protection Bill, he rejected arguments from the Opposition that the council would be left without an overall strategic function. He said that the proposed joint committee would have the resources it needed.

Mr Bryan Gould, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, moved a new clause calling for the proposed joint committee on countryside functions to undertake research at a national level and to establish common standards relating to

## ENVIRONMENT

natural and wildlife conservation.

He said that the Government had exploded a bombshell on the conservation world last year by announcing that the Nature Conservancy Council was to be dissolved and its functions shared out among a number of countryside councils.

Many saw the proposal as having emanated from a deal between the Scottish Office and powerful commercial interests which wanted to pursue their forestry proposals, particularly in the Flow country.

There were well founded fears that the consequences would mean a body blow to the whole conservation movement. The suspicions and fears remained unallayed.

Labour had sought to align itself with the overwhelming concern of the conservation movement that a gap would be left after the dismemberment.

There was a need to preserve the science base, to provide a UK dimension to advice tendered to the Government, common standards throughout the UK, and a need for UK representation on international bodies.

The voluntary conservation movement remained unshaken and took the view that this part of the Bill should be abandoned.

Sir William Wilkinson, chairman of the conservancy council, had written to MPs that a new set of conservation bodies answering to different government departments might not be able properly to retain "a sufficient Great Britain overview of science and policy issues in Britain so essential to the conservation of our natural heritage".

He had written that many of the concerns about the Bill as it affected the council remained unresolved, especially over questions of resources, clarity of legislation and the work of the proposed joint committee.

Nothing they had heard so far led them to conclude that the Government had resolved how to meet a degree of devolution but preserve a proper Great Britain dimension on the science base and the setting of standards.

To carry out this dismemberment was going to be very expensive. The best estimate from the council was that the reorganization would add £20 million to its present budget.

"No one on the Labour side of the House has ever argued against the devolution required to meet Scottish interests."

"What is at issue is whether in the course of providing that greater degree of devolution, it is necessary to dismantle, dismember, dissolve, destroy the

council which operates on a Great Britain basis."

Mr Patten said that the Opposition was in a mess on the issue. The joint committee would be able to obtain the data and information it needed directly from the country councils.

A small secretariat and technical unit would be required. The House of Lords select committee, chaired by Lord Carver, had recommended up to 20 professional staff and the Government was sympathetic.

Lord Carver had made clear, however, that the joint committee should not be an independent quango, but derive its funds through the country councils. The ability to employ staff directly was one of the hallmarks of full quango status and the Government would not be doing that.

The Government's proposals had certainly aroused strong emotions. No one had been able to convince him that it was inherently wrong to have separate public sector agencies for nature conservation in each country, provided that there were satisfactory arrangements to deal with the wider dimensions of wildlife - as was being provided with the joint committee under Professor Frederick Holliday.

A new beginning was needed and that was what the Bill would achieve. The credentials of the new agencies could not be doubted seriously in view of the appointments of the chairmen-designate, Professor Holliday, Lord Cranbrook, Mr Magnus Magnusson and Mr Michael Griffith. Each had links with the voluntary movement.

Mr Andrew Bennett (Denton and Reddish, Lab) said he had some sympathy with the new Secretary of State who was being called upon to perform Houdini feats on both the poll tax and on this Bill. On the Nature Conservancy Council, the minister was clearly looking forward to defeat in the Lords and that was why the Government had done so little work to flesh out its proposals.

The Government was getting rid of the council only because it had brought awkward advice to ministers. Ministers had turned on the message.

Sir Hector Mearns (Dumfries, C) said that he was the longest-serving member of the council, and Sir William Wilkinson, chairman of the council, had been acting in his personal capacity when writing to MPs. Most members of the council were in favour of the proposals and the Scottish members had been unanimously in favour of them.

"Of course the staff have been very concerned from the beginning as staff would be when they realize that there may be reallocations of jobs, although the minister from the start was able to say that their jobs were assured."

## Rifkind promises benefit for Scots

### RAILWAYS

MINISTERS are determined that the north of England and Scotland will benefit from the building of the Channel tunnel.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said during Commons question time.

Mr Gavin Strang (Edinburgh East, Lab) said that electrification of lines between Edinburgh and Glasgow was needed to provide the most modern type of service and a decision was becoming urgent because the present electrification programme at Carstairs would end this year.

The Government should ensure that there was a start on electrification between the two cities and between Edinburgh and Dundee before the electrification programme at Carstairs would end this year.

Mr Rifkind said that electrification was essentially a matter for British Rail and the rail authorities were in the best position to judge whether investment should be in express units or electrification.

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith (Kincardine and Deeside, C) said that the British Rail decision to end a sleeper service from Aberdeen to London without proper consultation made some MPs worried about British Rail's commitment to the east coast line, particularly when it showed itself reluctant to consider the serious importance of electrification.

Mr Rifkind said that he was concerned about what Mr Bu-

channan-Smith said. He understood that British Rail was proposing to combine two overnight trains, putting sitting passengers and sleepers together on the same train (laughter).

Mr Brian Wilson, an Opposition spokesman on Scottish affairs, said that they understood from ScotRail that they were prepared to reconsider electrification of the Edinburgh to Glasgow line.

He asked: "Will the Scottish Office, for once, enter into some constructive spirit on rail services and electrification, and Mr Rifkind use whatever diminished influence he has to get rid of the absurd 8 per cent per annum return on investment criterion?"

"What is the Scottish Office doing about the Channel tunnel and the now imminent prospect of Scotland being further isolated and disadvantaged because electrification and top-level high-speed rail services will not extend into Scotland. Is there any strategy on the tunnel in the Scottish Office?"

Mr Rifkind: I share his enthusiasm for rail travel, and I agree about the importance of ensuring that British Rail carries out the necessary investment so that Scotland can have the full benefit of the tunnel.



## 'Fiddler on the Roof'

MR MALCOLM RIFKIND, Secretary of State for Scotland, was dubbed a "later-day King Canute" during Commons questions over his insistence that the poll tax was here to stay.

He retorted that his shadow, Mr Donald Dewar, was a "Fiddler on the Roof" because of his failure to spell out details of Labour's proposed roof tax.

During rowdy exchanges, Mr Dewar asked the Secretary of State to confirm that there would be relief for Scottish poll tax payers by this summer.

In view of the admission made by the Prime Minister of fatal flaws in the poll tax, did he hold to his statement last month that the tax worked and was here to stay?

Mr Rifkind said that the community charge was here to stay. Improvements, if there were any to be made, would apply throughout the United Kingdom.

He was not surprised that 30 per cent to 40 per cent of people would like to see the rates back. That was exactly the proportion who did not pay a penny under the old system.

He had accused Labour earlier of being coy

about the cost of its proposed roof tax. "If he wishes to describe me as a later-day King Canute, I have to describe him as a later-day Fiddler on the Roof" (laughter).

Earlier, Mr Alexander Salmond (Banff and Buchan, SNP) described himself as a non-payer of the tax and proud to be part of the campaign which would sink it. Would the coming changes to the legislation be backdated to cover the full year in which Scots had had to face the full bill?

Mr Nicholas Bennett (Pembroke, C) said that there was something fundamentally undemocratic about well-heeled free-loading scroungers, elected to the House of Commons, seeking to change a law which they did not obey.

He withdrew the word "scroungers" at the request of the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill), replacing it with "those people who do not pay their dues to society and expect other people to pay it for them".

Mr Rifkind said that there was something disreputable about such "free-loading MPs" who imposed an even heavier burden on the rest of the community.

## Guns for Iraq debate refused by Speaker

A DEMAND from a Conservative backbencher for an emergency debate on the "guns for Iraq" case was rejected by the Speaker in the Commons because it did not fall within the appropriate standing order.

Sir John Stinks (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C) complained of the action of the Customs and Excise against employees of Walter Somers over the export of the steel pipes. He said that three senior managers and seven employees had been interviewed. He had now seen reports that three people had been arrested, but not, as he understood it, charged. The actions of the customs had caused grave disquiet to employees and their families and there was great anxiety in the firm and in Halesowen generally.

Action of this kind by a Government department was unusual, to say the least, when the Government knew, all

### ARRESTS

along, what was happening. "I hope that honourable and patriotic men are not going to be pilloried to save the Government's face."

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) said that there was widespread concern in the West Midlands over what was happening and the way in which people in Halesowen were being treated. West Midlands MPs had asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Mr Nicholas Ridley) for the dates on which Sir Hal Miller, Conservative MP for Bromsgrove, had raised the question of the Iraq export order for pipes, but they had not been told.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said the replies were a matter for the discretion of ministers.

## Decision soon on sculpture

THE proposed export of the Canova sculpture "The Three Graces" is still being considered by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, the House of Lords was told by Lord Hesketh, Under Secretary of State for the Environment. He said the minister hoped to make an announcement soon.

Concern about the export proposal for the sculpture was expressed by Lord St John of Fawley (C), a former arts minister, who said that many in the art world would accept the intervention of private funding for works of art if there were to be access to the public in perpetuity and a permanent export ban.

"But, in the absence of such guarantees, what possible grounds could the Government have for intervening and distinguishing between one private owner and another?"

Lord Hesketh said that the offer made by the Barclay brothers for the sculpture had nothing to do with the Government but was an offer made to the owners.

Lady Birk, the Opposition

### THREE GRACES

spokesman in the Lords on the arts, said that the offer made by Mr Jacob Rothschild for the sculpture should be considered by ministers.

Lord Hesketh said that the Government's role, as in other cases, was that of deciding on an export licence.

Mr Ridley had proposed an extension of the criteria to provide protection after uncertainty and unhappiness in the art world about the future of the sculpture.

The government indemnity scheme enables institutions to borrow the cream of privately owned works of art, Mr Richard Lacey, Minister for the Arts, said in a Commons written reply.

He was replying to Mr Timothy Wood (Shefferson, C), who asked what steps he was taking to encourage public access to important works of art held privately.

Mr Lacey said that the scheme encouraged public access to privately owned works of art by removing the cost of insurance

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## Peers will be asked to be more open on interests

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

PEERS are to be asked to declare their financial interests more often and more fully before speaking on related subjects in the Lords.

But the Lords procedure committee has decided not to recommend to the House that a register of interests should be set up on the lines of the Commons registers for MPs, their staff and journalists.

Lord Aberdeen, chairman of committees, will present the report to the House within the next few weeks and ask for the peers' approval.

Lords sources disclosed yesterday that the committee's investigation concluded that, although most peers declare a general interest when speaking in debates, the system is open to abuse.

The committee agrees that the Lords is a House of experts, but its key concern is the increase in the number of peers reading out briefings on behalf of organizations or lobbyists and tabling amendments to Bills on their behalf without stating their links to the organizations.

The peers' "bible", the *Companion to the Standing Orders*, says: "Lords speak always on their personal honour. It follows that if a lord decides that it is proper for him to take part in a

debate on a subject in which he has a direct pecuniary interest, he should declare it. It is, however, considered undesirable for a lord to advocate, promote or oppose in the House any Bill or subordinate legislation in or for which he is or has been acting or concerned for any pecuniary fee or reward."

As there is no Speaker in the Lords, it is left to other peers to object if they believe a member has not declared a pecuniary interest. But in practice that does not happen. The report will call for those rules to be tightened to require peers to state their specific interest and to do so whenever they speak on a related subject.

One occasion in recent years which would have been affected by such a requirement was the introduction of a Bill to change the drug patent laws by Lord Northfield who declared that he was an adviser to the pharmaceutical industry. He did not, however, declare in the House that he was a paid consultant to the American drug company Merck, Sharp and Dohme.

Many other peers are known to have accepted briefs from organizations either paid or voluntary, and then argued for changes in legislation without always declaring their interests.



# Gorbachov humiliation never happened — official

From Mary Dejevsky  
Moscow

THE Soviet government newspaper, *Izvestia*, was alone among Soviet media yesterday to report the 40,000-strong demonstration against President Gorbachov at Monday's May Day rally in Moscow, and his premature departure from the reviewing stand. According to Soviet television and the rest of the press, the humiliation never happened.

What took place instead, according to Tass, was a small demonstration by immature and occasionally irresponsible political groups, who shouted provocative slogans and tried to use the occasion — unsuccessfully — for their own ends.

Tass reported: "When the trade-union sponsored demonstration was over... columns from the city's different regions, organized by the Moscow City Council and the League of Voters, entered the

square one by one. The ranks of the demonstrators included representatives of a broad spectrum of organizations and movements which — although they are still called 'informals' — have become a reality of our political life. Pluralism was reflected in the slogans, and we have to say frankly that we would have found it hard to imagine some of those banners flying over Red Square until recently.

"We should also note that the number of demonstrators was considerably fewer than had been expected and the impression created by the procession was at times hard to take: individual slogans were openly provocative, hooliganistic and extremist. They called not for consolidation but for direct confrontation with the constitutional authorities."

This Tass account, in one form or other, has now become the authorized version of Tuesday's events. Every national Soviet

paper, bar one, reprinted it, either by itself and attributed to Tass, or in the course of a round-up of the Moscow May Day by their own correspondents — "with Tass". In these composite reports, when the time came to report the second Red Square demonstration, the wording was pure Tass. It also provided the commentary to the truncated television film of the demonstration.

The official Communist Party paper, *Pravda*, chose to add a little didacticism of its own, writing that the behaviour of the demonstrators made "appeals for international solidarity and cohesion against anarchy and violence, and for joint action to establish civil peace, sound all the more urgent and convincing."

However, *Izvestia* published on its front page a long and rather different account, which said unambiguously that the official party had been "compelled" to leave Red Square. After describing the

arrangements for the demonstration, enumerating the mustering points and the fully voluntary basis of participation, it said: "The organizers had made known to the official authorities that there would be no censorship of the banners carried by the demonstrators. The only demand was that they should not be anti-constitutional. But when the columns entered Red Square with slogans that were plainly insulting, it was clear that the 'infancy' of our democracy had, alas, played its usual bad joke on Muscovites. It is unlikely that the authorities of any capital city in any civilized country would have permitted such a demonstration. Here, they allowed it, relying on the political wisdom of the organizers."

"But for some reason, some informal groups thought when they entered Red Square that, by running down the Government and hurling outright insults at the President, they would not only be

able to show their courage but also accelerate changes in the country." *Izvestia* commented: "We cannot exclude the possibility that they might achieve some sort of 'acceleration': the only question is — which direction would the changes take." Expressing concern that some of the slogans were "calls for direct confrontation with the constitutional authorities", the report went on: "In these circumstances, the people on the stand — who included the newly elected Mayor of Moscow, Mr Gavril Popov — were compelled to leave Red Square, and the last columns of informal groups held their demonstration only for the benefit of each other."

After delivering a homily about the demonstrators' lack of a mandate for their actions, the paper concluded that although the noisy contributions from the crowd would "hardly affect the political situation in the country, they did, none the less, spoil the

holiday". The editorial staff of *Izvestia*, in common with those of most other Soviet newspapers, were on holiday yesterday and no official explanation could be obtained.

But three factors may have played a part. Although often not distributed until the morning, *Izvestia* is an evening paper and would have had to decide its editorial line before the, now definitive, Tass report was available. Second, it is at present without an editor-in-chief — the previous editor, Igor Laptev, was recently appointed chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Chamber of the Union and a new editor has not been named. A temporary or junior editor might have taken the decision. Third, the paper is the organ of the Soviet Government, not of the party, and its coverage of Soviet politics has tended to favour the radical reformists. Being responsible to the Government rather than the party, it

might incline towards the Prime Minister rather than the party leadership in a conflict.

● **RIGA:** After a stormy debate, the caucus of deputies of the Latvian Popular Front agreed yesterday on a declaration of Latvian sovereignty to be put to the republic's supreme soviet, today (Anatol Lieven writes). The motion provides for a "transition period" to real independence, following the Estonian rather than Lithuanian pattern.

The final draft declares illegal the Soviet annexation of Latvia, and restores in principle the validity of the 1922 constitution of the independent republic. But only four of the proposed constitutional clauses are actually to be brought into effect: those declaring Latvia an independent democratic republic; that all sovereign power belongs to the Latvian people; Latvian sovereignty over the whole territory of Latvia, and provision for elections.

## Moscow protests may slow reform and spark revenge

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

"Mark my words, they will take their revenge," said Mr Teiman Gdlyan, Moscow's folk hero and sacked investigator, of the likely Politburo reaction to the May Day demonstration in Moscow.

The Soviet press also warned that the anti-regime protest might have the opposite effect to that desired, implying that the movement towards greater democracy and economic reform might be reversed.

Spokesmen for two of the informal groups which took part, the Constitutional Democrats (Kadets) and the Social Democratic Association, said that their members had not suffered any adverse consequences as a result. Extra surveillance, harassment, raids on offices, summary detention on petty charges, are all possibilities that may await some of the protesters.

There were many plainclothes police and KGB in the crowd. Some noted placard wording, or filmed protesters.

A day after the demonstrations — a day on which most Muscovites were on holiday — it is still too early to foresee the consequences, but a few markers can be established. President Gorbachov is caught in the same pincer-grip of the radicals and the conservatives — but perhaps even more tightly than before. The double demonstration showed

that all too clearly: the first, organized by the official trade unions, was in its way as anti-regime as the second anti-communist one. Trade union official after trade union official called for strict price controls and the maintenance of workers' "living standards"; they expressed wariness of a market economy and said that reform should not be pursued at any cost. These were some of the concerns Mr Gorbachov had heard earlier in the Urals.

The reformers' demonstration was directed first against Communist Party rule and second against its personification, President Gorbachov. Where an alternative leader was mentioned, it was Mr Boris Yeltsin, the radical reformist — but his support derives less from his views on economic reform than his oratory and his opposition to the communist establishment.

The sentiments expressed on May Day leave the political balance roughly where it was. But the freedom with which anti-regime demonstrators waved banners and derided the leadership is bound to strengthen the conservatives, if only temporarily.

Their cause is law and order and due respect for authority — and this is a popular cause, as the election of so many military men and police at the recent local elections showed.

Their representatives in the leadership can be imagined asking Mr Gorbachov how long he is prepared to tolerate such disorder as, in their view, was seen in Red Square, and whether he does not consider what happened to be a humiliation. In this respect, President Gorbachov's position has been weakened.

The reformers can reply that the second Red Square demonstration was a well-used opportunity for the disgruntled masses to let off steam. It is to the advantage of the Moscow organizers that there was no violence, and they will be able to pass the whole episode off as an over-exuberant manifestation of democracy. But the "freedom and democracy" ticket does not help Mr Gorbachov at home any longer. The radicals are way ahead of him.

The continuing problem for Mr Gorbachov's opponents in the leadership is to find an alternative leader who could keep the radicals and the conservatives moving in the same direction of reform.

To judge by some of Mr Gorbachov's recent statements, he feels that unless a degree of political consensus can be maintained at the centre, there is a risk of confrontation.

Tuesday's demonstrations may have assisted Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Prime Minister. The go-slow reformers used to be Mr Yegor Ligachov's constituency, but their misgivings are increasingly being voiced by Mr Ryzhkov.

The wrath of the Kremlin's conservatives may be partially assuaged by the planned military parade through Red Square next week to mark Victory Day.

As well as boosting the morale of a jaded military, it will also give the Army an opportunity to show that it wields a measure of power.

Mr Gorbachov could also minimize the damage to his own position in the leadership by taking action against the Moscow Communist Party and city council, which helped to organize the demonstration. Again, however, he faces problems. The new council is trying to work within the system. Any heavy-handed action by the Kremlin would hasten the likely confrontation and alienate much of Moscow.

The May Day balance sheet leaves Mr Gorbachov weakened, the open divisions between radicals and conservatives widened, but no one individual strengthened sufficiently to challenge for power. Had there been civil disorder the Army might have sent its tanks to Red Square eight days before Victory Day. As it is, Victory Day should be a celebration and a warning, but not punishment.

When Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, sits down this weekend for the "two plus four" talks he will carry a file of "step-by-step approaches" to persuade the Soviet Union to accept a united Germany within Nato. When Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, his Soviet counterpart, attends the same meeting it is thought that he will have a similar file of ideas, but one reading "All or Nothing".

The difference in negotiating tactics may have as much impact upon this summer of European peace negotiations as the substance of the issues themselves. The US sees no alternative to a unified Germany within Nato. It perceives that outcome as in the interests of the Germans, other Nato members, Germany's eastern neighbours and the Soviet Union. The questions are how to get there, how long the journey will take and, increasingly as time goes by, how much it will cost.

At the Ottawa meeting in February, the Soviet Union appeared briefly to be joining the US path of incremental steps to a new European security system. Since then the Soviet negotiators have alarmed some Americans by appearing to move into reverse, stalling the conventional arms-reduction process and cavilling over details thought to have been agreed.

But today the US has adapted to what its officials prefer to call a "synchronized" rather than an "all-or-nothing" approach by the other side. The US is prepared to

push Germany into what it sees as the right package of incentives which can be tied up with a ribbon for the benefit of Mr Gorbachov's people back home.

The first part of the deal probably has to be a big reduction in the German Army, to be negotiated through the conventional forces process in Vienna. Both sides would want some period of phasing in the changes.

The Soviet Union may have given up the idea of a neutral Germany. Moscow does not want to risk a neutral Germany becoming an independently nuclear-armed Germany, but will still want a big reduction in Nato nuclear arms on German soil.

The US will insist, however, both to the Soviet Union and to the Germans, that continuing membership of Nato must mean the siting of nuclear-armed aircraft in Germany. The chosen weapon, the Tactical Air-to-Surface Missile, which can be fitted on most combat aircraft, will become a key part of discussions.

One of the easier parts of the deal will be the securing of a German commitment on renouncing its own nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. Another will be a formal German endorsement of its present Polish border. But mere German promises will not be enough. Thus, the stage is set for the hardest part of the package — the new security structure itself and the transitional arrangements to it.

## East Berlin bows to Kohl on currency

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

THE East German Government relented yesterday in its campaign to secure more favourable terms in the July currency union with West Germany and agreed to Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor.

The decision enables a formal treaty to be signed on monetary and economic union, the first concrete step towards reunification. The decision was announced simultaneously in Bonn and East Berlin and the provisional rate of three Ostmarks for one Deutschmark at currency-exchange booths was immediately reduced to two-for-one in an attempt to limit speculation.

Herr Günter Krause, the head of the East German delegation, charged with agreeing the terms of a treaty, said it was time East Germans considered the attitude of the West German population towards the effects of monetary union. "This is not just a question of money, but of the future of Germany and we must take into account the fears of the West German population as well as our own expectations," he said.

The statement was a clear response to pressure from Bonn to bring the protracted negotiations on currency union to an end, so as to rescue the dwindling goodwill in the West towards East Germany.

The amount of savings that East Germans can change into Deutschmarks at parity remains at 4,000 marks (£1,454), and after that ceiling, the exchange rate will be halved.

Pensioners, the most likely group to suffer in the economic changes ahead, will be allowed to change 6,000 marks at parity. The amount proposed for children has been reduced to half the adult rate after widespread opposition in West Germany. Herr Krause said the agreement was considered final but admitted that many East Germans, particularly those with young families, would be disappointed at the failure of their negotiators to secure a deal on compensation for price rises which will follow currency union because of the removal of subsidies on basic foods and services.

The East German Govern-

ment is now placating the population with the promise of "dynamic development" in the economy leading to a swift rise in wages.

● **BONN:** The currency treaty agreed yesterday comes four days before the East German local elections (Ian Murray writes). The deal represents a compromise which will not cost Bonn extra money thus avoiding endangering the strength of the Deutschmark.

The treaty's 12 points are designed to meet the expectations raised by Herr Kohl during East Germany's general election campaign in March, which enabled the Christian Democrats (CDU) there to win the largest share of the vote.

The CDU-led East German Government, which has been apprehensive about hanging on to the share of the vote it achieved in March, accepted the compromise so that it would have concrete evidence to show the electors on Sunday that the process of reunification was under way.

The Bonn Government had made it plain from the outset of the two days of intensive negotiations that it could make no further concessions that would cost money. In offering to exchange wages and pensions at parity along with savings up to 4,000 Ostmarks it said it had reached the limits of economic common sense.

The importance of the treaty to East German electors is underlined by a poll taken last week, by the Wickert Institute, among 1,420 people after Bonn made its offer of exchange at parity. This showed that 69 per cent now feel that they are better off economically compared with just 36 per cent the previous week. Only 13 per cent, compared with 27 per cent, said that they were going to be worse off through currency union and the numbers who felt nothing would change had fallen from 21 per cent to 10 per cent. Even the number of "don't knows" had been halved from 16 per cent two weeks ago.

In announcing the agreement, Herr Rudolf Seiters, the Chancellor's Minister, said that there was a joint responsibility to see the rapid introduction of a social market economy in East Germany, to maintain currency stability.

## German leader reassures Poles

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

PRESIDENT von Weizsäcker of West Germany came to Warsaw yesterday determined not only to end the long enmity between Germans and Poles but also to repair the more recent damage caused by Herr Helmut Kohl's studied ambiguity over the eastern borders of a new united Germany.

"In substance," he told President Jaruzelski in a reference to the Chancellor's stance, "the question of borders between us is irrevocably settled."

A draft treaty has already been submitted by Poland to the two German states, and the political directors of the West German, East German and Polish foreign ministries will meet in Warsaw today to work on the text.

"Borders should become bridges," President Weizsäcker said. "We do not want to tear down the Berlin Wall in order to re-erect it on the Oder and the Neisse. And we ask you, too, to promote the idea of open borders."

The practice is slightly different. East German border guards, apparently encouraged by Bonn, were tightening controls yesterday on the Polish-German frontier. Since the Oder-Neisse line will soon be

the eastern frontier of the European Community, visa checks are becoming rigorous. But President von Weizsäcker is on an altogether more spiritual mission. His last trip to Poland was on the back of a tank in September, 1989, as part of the German invasion force. But, as President Jaruzelski said last night, he, too, had first experienced Germany as a soldier; it was a generational question.

During his banquet speech last night, General Jaruzelski stated Poland's anxieties about the future with military bluntness. "Germany is becoming again one of the largest powers. That stirs up resentments. Disturbing facts keep these fears alive. And the logical question is raised: How will the future united German state use its huge potential?"

The German President conceded that there was considerable anxiety in Poland. "Some Poles fear a new German drive towards the East and they are frightened of being bought up," he said.

President Jaruzelski used his sharpest tones, in an otherwise conciliatory speech, to demand compensation for the Poles who were used as slave labourers in Hitler's Germany.



Shadow of violence: A stone-throwing youth silhouetted against a blazing car as hundreds of young left-wingers wrecked shops, set fires and fought riot police in Kreuzberg, West Berlin, after May Day rallies degenerated into running battles

## US seeks unity formula to allay Kremlin fears

From Peter Stothard, US Editor, Washington

When Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, sits down this weekend for the "two plus four" talks he will carry a file of "step-by-step approaches" to persuade the Soviet Union to accept a united Germany within Nato. When Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, his Soviet counterpart, attends the same meeting it is thought that he will have a similar file of ideas, but one reading "All or Nothing".

The difference in negotiating tactics may have as much impact upon this summer of European peace negotiations as the substance of the issues themselves. The US sees no alternative to a unified Germany within Nato. It perceives that outcome as in the interests of the Germans, other Nato members, Germany's eastern neighbours and the Soviet Union. The questions are how to get there, how long the journey will take and, increasingly as time goes by, how much it will cost.

At the Ottawa meeting in February, the Soviet Union appeared briefly to be joining the US path of incremental steps to a new European security system. Since then the Soviet negotiators have alarmed some Americans by appearing to move into reverse, stalling the conventional arms-reduction process and cavilling over details thought to have been agreed.

But today the US has adapted to what its officials prefer to call a "synchronized" rather than an "all-or-nothing" approach by the other side. The US is prepared to

push Germany into what it sees as the right package of incentives which can be tied up with a ribbon for the benefit of Mr Gorbachov's people back home.

The first part of the deal probably has to be a big reduction in the German Army, to be negotiated through the conventional forces process in Vienna. Both sides would want some period of phasing in the changes.

The Soviet Union may have given up the idea of a neutral Germany. Moscow does not want to risk a neutral Germany becoming an independently nuclear-armed Germany, but will still want a big reduction in Nato nuclear arms on German soil.

The US will insist, however, both to the Soviet Union and to the Germans, that continuing membership of Nato must mean the siting of nuclear-armed aircraft in Germany. The chosen weapon, the Tactical Air-to-Surface Missile, which can be fitted on most combat aircraft, will become a key part of discussions.

One of the easier parts of the deal will be the securing of a German commitment on renouncing its own nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. Another will be a formal German endorsement of its present Polish border. But mere German promises will not be enough. Thus, the stage is set for the hardest part of the package — the new security structure itself and the transitional arrangements to it.

## Vilnius appeal to Paris and Bonn

Moscow

President Landsbergis of Lithuania appealed yesterday to the leaders of France and West Germany to help persuade the Soviet Union to start talks with the breakaway Baltic republic on its moves to independence.

In a message read to the Lithuanian parliament, President Landsbergis also expressed his willingness to freeze "some of the effects" of laws bolstering the republic's declaration of independence of March 11. But he said that the declaration itself was sacred.

His letters were in response to a joint message last Thursday from President Mitterrand of France and Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, urging patience and caution on Lithuania in its moves for independence from rule by the Kremlin.

An official at the Lithuanian parliamentary information office said: "The main point is to ask them to convey to the Soviet Government that we really want to sit down at the negotiating table. We might be willing to freeze some of the effects of our resolutions." But she said the

letter explicitly stated that "all questions are negotiable except for the March 11 declaration itself".

Mrs Kazimiera Prunskiene, the Lithuanian Prime Minister who is currently visiting North America, said in Toronto that she would try to enlist the help of President Bush when they meet today. She said that she would ask Mr Bush to try to persuade President Gorbachov when the two superpower leaders meet at this month's summit in Washington to break the economic blockade imposed against Lithuania and recognize its declaration of independence. (Reuters)

● **WASHINGTON:** The US Senate has passed by 73 votes to 24 a resolution urging President Bush not to ask Congress to approve any new US-Soviet trade agreements until Moscow lifts its economic sanctions against Vilnius (Martin Fletcher writes).

The resolution was tabled by right-wing Republicans, upset by Mr Bush's failure to take any action when Moscow imposed the sanctions, who want to take a tougher line.

Bernard Levin, page 12

Letters, page 13

## Hungarian parties reach deal

From Ernest Beck  
Budapest

HUNGARY'S two main political parties yesterday put aside their differences during the inaugural session of the country's first freely elected Parliament in 40 years and agreed to co-operate to ensure the smooth passage of legislation. In terms of the agreement between the centre-right Democratic Forum, the largest party, and the Alliance of Free Democrats, the main opposition group, Mr Arpad Goncz, a writer and founding member of the Free Democrats, will become both Speaker and acting President.

In exchange, the Free Democrats are to agree to waive an article of the Constitution requiring a two-thirds majority for the passage of crucial Bills, including those on ownership and land reform, which could have frustrated the Forum-led coalition's attempts to reshape economic policies.

Both parties emphasized that the agreement did not involve the formation

of a "grand coalition", insisting it was no more than tacit acknowledgment that Hungary needs a government that can act swiftly to tackle pressing economic problems. Dr Jozsef Antall, the Forum's president and the likely Prime Minister, said: "Both parties recognize that co-operation is needed because the country is on the threshold of a severe crisis."

Mr Goncz, who spent six years in prison after the 1956 uprising, is expected to play a unifying role by "rising above petty party interests", as one MP described it. It is assumed that he will eventually become President when Parliament elects one before the July summer break.

The memory of Hungary's brief spell of freedom in 1956 and the scars caused by the brutal crushing of the uprising by Soviet tanks haunted the opening session of Parliament. The first business was to approve an unequivocal legal declaration that 1956 was a "revolutionary freedom fight" and not a "counter-revolution launched by agents of West-

ern imperialism" as the former communist Government claimed. The declaration, which also establishes October 23, the day the revolution began, as a national holiday, said that 1956 "gave us hope to establish a new social order, and now we see that all these sacrifices were not in vain".

There was a mood of buoyant optimism and elation as the new MPs, many of them former dissidents who for decades had been hounded and harassed by the communist regime, took their seats chamber and sang an emotional rendition of the national anthem.

From the youngest MP, a psychology student, aged 23, to the oldest, a former political prisoner, aged 89, the feeling was one of pride that power had been returned to the people and that the communists had finally been sent packing. Instead of the previous rubber-stamp legislature, which met on only eight days a year, the new Parliament will be a professional body of paid representatives continuously in session.



Mr Baker: Step-by-step approach to reunification

Leading article, page 13



# Optimism as De Klerk and Mandela start talks

From Gavin Bell, Cape Town

THE South African Government and the African National Congress have begun their first formal discussions hopeful of reaching agreement on their respective terms for peace.

A mood of cautious optimism prevailed yesterday when the two sides gathered at a closely-guarded Cape Dutch Groote Schuur mansion for three days of talks aimed at removing obstacles to broader negotiations on dismantling apartheid.

Speaking in the grounds of the century-old official home of former white prime ministers before the first session, President de Klerk said the vast majority of South Africans supported the reform process.

"They are opposed to violence, to conflict, to intimidation, and are reaching for peaceful and just solutions. It is incumbent upon all leaders in South Africa to bring to fulfilment these reasonable aspirations of all our people. The talks which begin this afternoon could make an important contribution to this end," he said.

The Government was approaching the meetings with the utmost earnestness, and

resolve to create a climate for negotiations to begin in earnest, he said.

Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC's deputy president, said it was a sobering fact that the two sides were meeting seriously for the first time in 78 years. "It indicates the deadly weight of the terrible tradition of a dialogue between master and servant which we have to overcome."

He trusted that all South Africans, regardless of their political affiliations, would participate in the negotiation process without seeking undue advantage.

Both leaders addressed each other's constituencies with assurances that they were aiming for an equitable settlement.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment to universal suffrage, Mr de Klerk welcomed ANC pledges to try to find common ground and eliminate racial tensions. "Despite expected difficulties, there is careful optimism, as well as the faith and conviction that our problems will be solved through negotiation."

"The Government has accepted the challenge to throw everything into the struggle to achieve this. Our eventual goal is a new democratic dispensation for South Africa and all its people. Our prayer is that God will guide us," the President said.

Mr Mandela switched to Afrikaans, which he learned in prison, to reassure whites that they had nothing to fear from the ANC. The multi-racial composition of his delegation was proof of its desire to embrace all citizens in a post-apartheid society, he said.

"All those who are hostages of the past must transform themselves. We must deny the past its attempt to enslave us. The vocabulary of the old society should find no place in our dictionary."

The first round of discussions is confined to perceived obstacles to a wider forum of negotiations on constitutional reforms. The ANC's principal demands are for the state of emergency to be lifted and related security laws to be repealed, the release of all political prisoners, and an end to political trials. As *quid pro quo*, Pretoria is seeking an unequivocal commitment to peace by the ANC, and specifically an end to its "armed struggle".

None of the issues is regarded as insoluble, and the main problem seems to be to compromise on a timetable. The essential divergence is on timing, with the Government insisting on an early commitment to peace and the ANC refusing to do so until its conditions have been met.

However, ANC sources said they could offer a statement of intent to suspend military operations if Pretoria made acceptable concessions on their demands, and suggest further meetings to discuss a mutual suspension of hostilities.

Mr Joe Modise, the commander of the ANC armed wing, outlined the strategy on the eve of the talks: "We are ready to say to the Government that once our conditions have been met, we will be ready to discuss suspending the armed struggle, which amounts to a ceasefire. That is the next stage. It can then say the onus is on us to deliver, and I can assure you we are ready to deliver."

Dr Beyers Naude, a white Afrikaner clergyman in the ANC delegation, said that black youths could desert the organization if the talks broke down.



Mr Joe Slovo, centre, ANC chief of staff, flanked by Mr Mandela and Mr Walter Sisulu in Cape Town yesterday. The three are part of the organization's negotiating team

## ANC identity card doing nicely with Afrikaner police

From Gavin Bell, Cape Town

A SIGN of the changing times in South Africa is the appearance of a new identity card — the African National Congress "gold" card. Issued to journalists covering peace talks between the ANC and the Government, it is accepted by white security police with Afrikaners comments along the lines of "That will do nicely, sir".

A few months ago, anyone displaying the spear and shield emblem, printed on the gold-col-

oured cards, may have been bundled into prison. Yet it now dominates mass rallies in townships and is emblazoned on flags, posters and T-shirts throughout the country.

Remarkable images of the entente fostered by President de Klerk and Mr Nelson Mandela may be found in the grounds of the Lord Charles Hotel, a luxurious establishment 30 miles from Cape Town, overlooking the vineyards and spectacular coastline of the western Cape.

The temporary headquarters of the ANC delegation, the perimeter is guarded by government security

agents and the interior by erstwhile "terrorists" of the ANC armed wing (Umkhonto we Sizwe). Visitors are screened and escorted by the Afrikaners to the African nationalists at the front portal. The exchanges between men who, until recently, would have shot each other on sight, are cool but courteous.

Not far away is Robben Island, the grim penitentiary where several members of the ANC delegation spent much of their lives. Even closer is the Victor Verster prison, the residence of Mr Mandela only

three months ago. The venue of the discussions also provides a touch of irony. At the entrance of the 17th-century Cape Dutch estate at Groote Schuur is a weathered bronze relief depicting Jan van Riebeeck, leader of the first settlement at the Cape, stepping on to the shores of Table Bay in 1652, his hand extended to a half-naked and bemused Khoi-Khoi family.

The Groote Schuur homestead is a gracious monument to generations of white supremacy. Taking their places at the negotiating table in the former dining room, where Cecil

Rhodes and a succession of South African Prime Ministers deliberated the affairs of state, the ANC delegates were surrounded by priceless treasures of the colonial past. They are also surrounded by arguably the tightest security apparatus in the country's history, threatened as they are by wild men at both extremes of the political spectrum.

The new-found status of the ANC has been accorded due recognition by the white traffic wardens. On at least one occasion yesterday, the ANC press card averted a heavy parking fine.

## Strike at Soweto hospital

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

TONNES of dirty linen were piled high yesterday as Soweto's 2,700-bed, 50-year-old Baragwanath Hospital was brought to a standstill by a strike by 1,500 non-medical workers over pay. Maternity wards were closed because there were no clean sheets and no vests or nappies for newborn babies.

On Tuesday mothers were discharged from the hospital within an hour of giving birth, while the orthopaedic and casualty sections, with greatly reduced staffs, were barely managing to carry on.

Baragwanath is the only hospital in Soweto, the black township outside Johannesburg which is home to an estimated population of more than 2 million people. It also, however, serves hospitals in other townships as well as 11 out-patient clinics in Soweto itself — serving some 6 million people altogether.

Late yesterday, after crisis talks on the spot, Mr Danie Hough, the Administrator of the Transvaal, claimed the situation was under control. Outside, groups of strikers waved African National Congress placards and posters proclaiming: "We want a living wage." Dr Chris van den Heever, the hospital's chief superintendent, said strikers had earlier blocked access to the casualty section and had forced nursing assistants out of wards.

Dr George Louw, in charge of community health, said 30 per cent of the 1.5 million patients seen annually were chronically ill with diseases such as hypertension and diabetes. He warned that, because the strikers include pharmacy workers refusing to operate automatic tablet counters, patients would be unable to obtain their normal supplies of medicines. The implications of this, he said, were "strokes, comas and heart failure".

## EC acts to curb lorry 'cancer'

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

CALLING the growth of lorry traffic in the European Community a "cancer" that had to be removed, the EC Environment Commissioner yesterday announced drastic measures to cut noise and pollution by new lorries as part of a long-term plan to switch the movement of goods from road to rail.

Signor Carlo Ripa di Meana proposed cutting the amount of pollution emitted by diesel lorries by up to 60 per cent compared with current standards, virtually enforcing standards stricter than in the United States. He also insisted that manufacturers must introduce significantly quieter lorries, so that the new "whisper" vehicles could comply with strict night-time restrictions in force in Austria and Switzerland.

The stricter emissions standards are to be introduced in

two phases, beginning in July 1992. New engines must then comply with compulsory common standards throughout the Community, and will be introduced for mass production six months later. In the second phase, starting in 1996, emissions standards will be further tightened, giving the truck industry plenty of time to adapt.

The new limits parallel the tougher standards announced for cars last year, and will be enforced in the same time frame.

The first phase will bring the EC into line with limits proposed by both Austria and Switzerland, which are at present locked in argument with Brussels over their unilateral bans on night transit by noisy EC lorries, and their insistence on more lorries being loaded on to trains to cross the Alps.

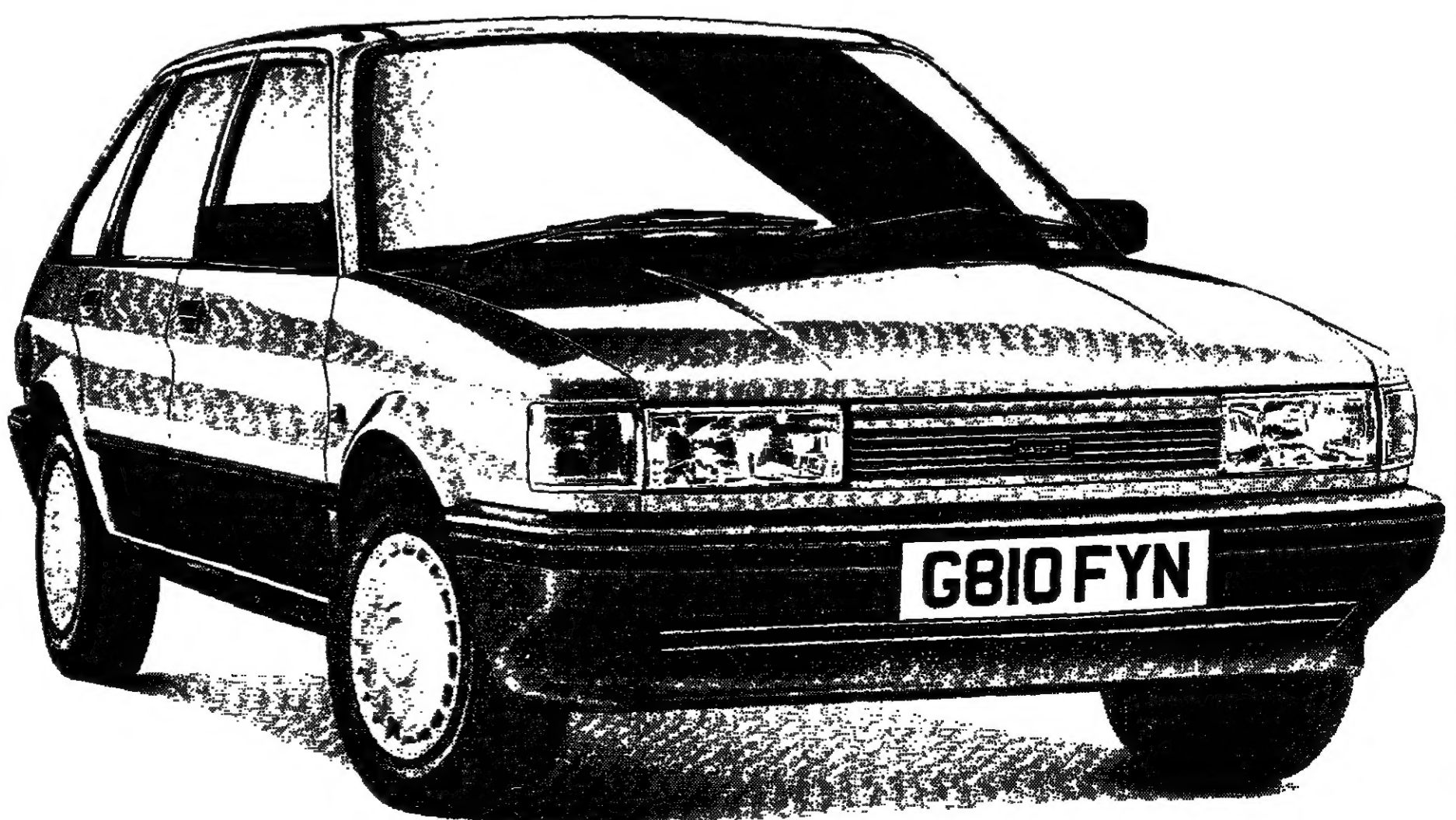
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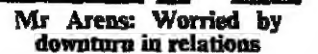
**One of the world's most durable bilateral alliances, between the United States and Israel, is showing alarming signs of strain. Richard Owen in Jerusalem reports**

**Hadashot**, the Israeli newspaper, however, said that a Likud government would "freeze the peace process and set a collision course with Washington" because a government based on right-wing parties and religious groups was not best fitted to deal with the problems facing Israel.

American diplomats, however, saw it differently, complaining of "a spate of US-bashing such as we have not seen for a decade". Observers said Washington was unsure whether Mr Shamir's remarks were an attempt to placate far-right groups on which a new coalition government could depend or a mark of his "true colours".

In his controversial remarks, Mr Shamir said Israel

US-Israeli relations are also under strain because of Mr Shamir's open support for new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, which Washington regards as both illegal and an obstacle to peace efforts. Unrepentant, Mr Shamir said he favoured large-scale settlement in the West Bank and Gaza, but regretted that this was impractical because funds were needed instead to absorb thousands of new immigrants from the Soviet Union in Israel proper. America has threatened to withhold \$400 million (£250 million) worth of housing



**From Peter Stothard, US Editor, Washington**

The groups accept that, during the Reagan years, they may have grown complacent about the flow of cash and political support; to assure the continuance of American goodwill, it is said, there needs to be a return to basics, a cooler look at what keeps the two countries together.

Israeli policy on hostages, unlike that of the US, is to negotiate for release of its own captives, currently at least

The *Intifada* is likely to rise again. It may do so at a time when the news from behind what was the Iron Curtain is not there to keep it off the American television screens. Moreover, Mr Baker is not the only one tiring of the diplomatic dance. The Palestine Liberation Organization, too, is wearying of wearing a friendly face and fearful of internal threats to its authority if talking to the US achieves too little for too long.

newspaper, has warned that a right-wing Shamir Government will lead to additional US-Israeli tensions and will isolate Israel internationally just as it is beginning to mend fences with several countries, including the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe. Aides to Mr Shamir, however, said the US, the West and the international community in general should judge the forthcoming Shamir administration by its actions.

All Iraqi newspapers appeared on Wednesday without any anti-Syrian comment. This is unusual since the rival Syrian and Iraqi factions of the Baath party split more than 20 years ago.

The Palestinian leader left Baghdad on Tuesday after a visit to Iraq in the course of an Arab tour to promote the idea of the Baghdad summit, which is likely to be held this month. President Hussein of Iraq has backed the summit call to discuss what he termed "grave threats facing pan-Arab security." (Reuters)

that it would no longer finance Syria's dreams of achieving strategic parity with Israel. President Assad felt his isolation even more acutely when Washington gave Cairo a big role in mediating between Israel and the Palestinians.

Syria and Egypt, which were united between 1958 and 1961 and which fought together in three wars against Israel, have had a long and stormy relationship which reached its lowest ebb in November,

Mr Arafat has called for an Arab summit to discuss ways of countering the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel. About 35,000 have arrived so far this year and the figure is expected to rise to a million in the next five years. Arab leaders fear many will be settled in the Israeli occupied territories.

Vertrag

**From Michael Theodorou, Nicosia**

The meeting was to discuss the faltering Middle East peace process, ways of achieving Arab unity, and calls for an Arab summit on the exodus of

between the two main Arab states involved in the Middle East conflict is over. A military band played the national anthems of the two countries

chemical warfare in the event of an Israeli nuclear attack. The visit also came just two days after a second American

antipathy between President Mubarak and President Assad, both former fighter pilots whose paths crossed first at an Egyptian air base and later in

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 35 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 17 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997). The number of people 85 years of age or older is projected to increase from 2 million to 4 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997). The number of people 90 years of age or older is projected to increase from 500,000 to 1 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997). The number of people 95 years of age or older is projected to increase from 100,000 to 200,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997). The number of people 100 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10,000 to 20,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997).

## Baghdad

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The Palestinian leader is pressing for an emergency Arab summit on the mass exodus of Soviet Jews to

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Vorname

**JERUSALEM NOTEBOOK** by Richard Owen

The censors had reckoned without the rebellious nature of the Israeli press, not to mention the fact that few of the Government's own ministers seem able to resist a microphone or a television cam-

Military censorship is accepted in Israel when most Israelis believe national security is at stake (nobody discusses Israel's alleged nuclear capacity, for example), but not when the talk of every bus stop is of the need for urgent national debate on how to cope with the "miracle" of a sudden injection of (mostly) educated Russians willing to master Hebrew and learn about Judaism before they become disillusioned and ask to leave the "Promised Land", either for America, a destination favoured by many, even perhaps in a few cases by those to Moscow, despite fears of growing anti-Semitism in President Gorbachev's Russia.



**Zubin Mehta: Flying the flag for high musical standards**

Much of the great "debate" on immigration revolves around creating new jobs and whether or not to provide "tent cities" with temporary housing, as in the early days of Jewish State. But there is

sheba, often at low prices, certainly with none automatically given to cultural élite.

Hundreds of talented artists are filling slots in municipal bands, or teaching in schools in "developing" remoter regions who boast music conservatories. The further handicap is that the Soviet Union's musical tastes are still largely limited to Soviet and old-fashioned Western tunes. Israeli orchestras are banned from playing as Zubin Mehta has been by conducting the Beethoven Philharmonic simultaneously, Israeli artists can claim the same

Of all this, he has reported to me, "I am seeing faces on Soviet human-midpiping up again in the Middle East come and quite often sit."

"Once a dissident," as one recently said, "Sharanov, the Soviet Jewish journalist Forum, in Israel."

And there is disillusionment. It fully stocked, then, and freedom of speech excess. But Israel at least as badly counterpart and

for anyone who arrived from Moscow. The Soviet Union is not familiar from the protests people quite different text of Israel - protesting. Student, always a Soviet activist of Mr Natan leader of the Zionist group, Zion-

...for Russian Israeli shops are no queues, speech is taken to bureaucracy is as its Soviet business and jobs

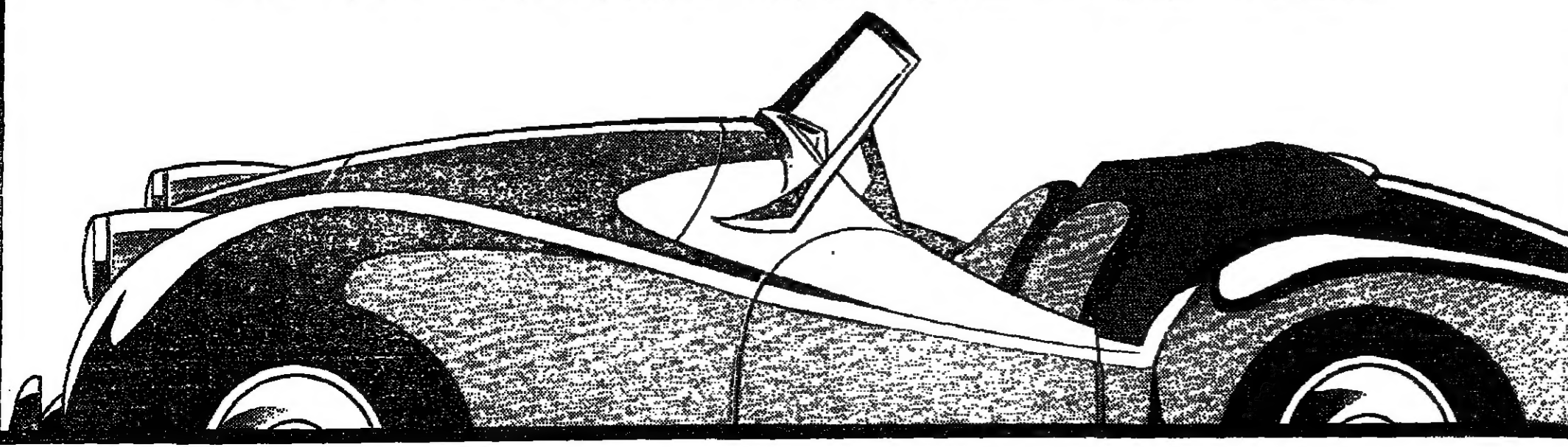
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# Satellite

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# Thousands join Hindu rally against Pakistan

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

HUNDREDS of thousands of chanting Hindus descended on central Delhi yesterday, waving saffron flags of militancy in a stunning outburst against Pakistan's supposed interference in secessionist wars in Kashmir and Punjab.

The protest was designed to demonstrate the unprecedented political might of orthodox Hindu leaders: after this show of strength there can be no doubt that their movement for Hindutva (Hindu-ness) has reached the masses.

The crowds were whipped up by fervid sadhus (holy men) with gaily-painted faces and dressed in saffron robes, and by politicians bellowing from hundreds of loudspeakers strung from trees, poles and fences over an area of several square miles.

The protest was against Muslim countries in general as much as Pakistan in particular. Speakers said Saudi Arabia, Iran and other governments were aiding Kashmiri Muslim separatists. The crowds yelled anti-Muslim slogans, sending a chill through India's 100 million-strong Islamic population.

Kashmir valley Hindus, known as Pandits, were present, too. They have been driven from their homes and jobs under threat from Muslim militants; it is their plight that adds such a tragic personal dimension to the rise of Muslim fundamentalism in the beleaguered valley.

For all the reports of bombings and shootings, there are signs that India's massive security operation is bringing the valley under control. There is widespread talk in government circles of launching an early political initiative if the relative calm continues.

"The Government is ready to admit that mistakes were made in the past," a senior official said. "It is prepared to discuss change. The mood in Kashmir has moderated a great deal since January, when ordinary people felt that India was losing control of the valley. It is now realized that there can be no question of seceding to Pakistan or becoming independent, because if India ever lost Kashmir the rest of the country would split apart."

The mass demonstration was organized by the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which increasingly regards itself as the party of the next government. It rejects the label of fundamentalism: be that as it may, it is the inspiration behind the rise of Hindu awareness in northern India and has been instrumental in raising the political temperature over Pakistan.

Its symbol, the lotus flower, is daubed on the walls of every village in the Hindi belt. The party controls two key northern states, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh; it is the kingmaker in Rajasthan, Gujarat and the giant state of Bihar; and it keeps the minority central Government afloat.

Mr Lal Krishna Advani, its leader — who was educated by Irish fathers at St Patrick's in Karachi, before partition — has carried the BJP from obscurity to dominance in a remarkably short time. Five years ago it had just two MPs in the Lok Sabha (lower house); now it has 66.

It uses the Kashmir crisis to portray Hindus as a people under siege from the Muslim world, a tactic that has paid off. Yesterday's demonstration has firmly established its claim to mass grassroots support in the Hindi belt — once the terrain of the Congress (I) party, which was driven out of northern India in last November's general election.

BJP leaders yesterday laid out their demands over Kashmir: abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution giving special status to Jammu and Kashmir (forbidding non-Kashmiris, for example, to own land or property); sealing the border; and the creation of an intelligence operation to root out subversives. They demanded a "bullet-for-bullet" approach, saying the Government should destroy terrorist bases and training camps in Pakistani territory.

Indian politicians always talk as though such camps were an established fact. Arms do flow across the line of control in Kashmir, but there is no convincing evidence of direct government involvement or of training camps. Pakistan does give full support to the uprising, however, and therefore critics say it bears a good deal of responsibility for encouraging terrorism among a peaceable people.



A radiant Mrs Paoletto with her daughter, Elke, at their Queensland home

## Bubble baby beats the odds

From Robert Cockburn, Sydney

A NEW world has opened up for Mrs Debra Paoletto. She has defied medical opinion and the allergy that imprisons her in a sealed, sterile "bubble" to give birth to a girl.

Until daughter Elke's arrival last week, Mrs Paoletto, aged 26, a former Australian beauty queen, lived alone in a room coated with porcelain at the home of her parents-in-law in Queensland. Doctors say exposure to toxic crop sprays as a child has left her with an allergy to the 20th century.

Her "environmental illness" is a reaction to just about all man-made substances, giving her dizzy spells and vomiting. It was also believed she could not carry a child for a full nine-month term.

Elke was born into the arms of her father, Mr Christian Paoletto, aged 26, in the protective bubble room after a 20-hour labour. However, it will be another four weeks before medical tests reveal whether Elke has inherited her mother's allergy and will have

to lead a similarly sheltered life.

Mrs Paoletto's isolation ended after her health improved enough for her husband to move into her room. Before that they had barely been able to touch. But Mr Paoletto still has to wash himself with bicarbonate of soda before entering the room.

Other precautions include shielding Mrs Paoletto from light bulbs and the television set with layers of glass.

She avoids books because of her reaction to the ink, and must keep to a diet of 30 basic foods. She can only dress in natural materials like silk and cotton.

It is hoped the family may one day be able to move to more natural surroundings, possibly a rainforest in northern Queensland.

Medical briefing, page 18

## Rebel attack on Cristiani house

San Salvador

LEFT-WING Salvadorean rebels launched an offensive yesterday, attacking the homes of President Cristiani and a Cabinet minister and firing rockets at the national electoral headquarters. The President was unhurt in the early-morning onslaught.

However, Major Mauricio Chávez Cáceres, an armed forces spokesman, told reporters that an army captain and two policemen were killed in fighting in the area. The offensive by rebels of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front was the first big attack in the Central American nation since last November, and coincided with peace moves between the rebels and the Government.

Major Chávez Cáceres said the rebels attacked the President's residence with rifle fire



President Cristiani: Key target for the guerrillas

during a series of attacks in the exclusive Escalón area in the north-west of San Salvador. Rebels also launched a rocket attack against the private home of Señor Mauricio Stubig, the Public Works Minister, and the headquarters of the Central Electoral Council. Fighting also erupted near the Sheraton hotel in Escalón, but Major Chávez Cáceres said that he could give no details.

More than 70,000 Salvadoreans have died in the 10-year civil war. Rebel representatives said on Monday that peace talks tentatively scheduled with the Government for today had been postponed so that both sides could present proposals to Señor Alvaro de Soto, the United Nations mediator in Mexico.

Military aid to El Salvador from the United States has been running at more than \$1 million (£600,000) a day, but the US House of Representatives foreign affairs committee has recommended cutting it by at least half if an investigation into the murder of six Jesuit priests during the November offensive is not seriously and professionally conducted.

Major Chávez Cáceres said the rebels also attacked targets in the eastern town of San Miguel and the central town of San Vicente in yesterday's offensive, causing at least one death. Emergency services said the rebels also blew up several electricity pylons in San Salvador. (Reuters)

## Police step in as Red Indian feud kills two

By Charles Bremner, New York, and Our Foreign Staff

ABOUT 500 US and Canadian police moved into the St Regis-Akwesasne Mohawk Indian reservation yesterday after two men were killed in a daylong gunbattle that pitted dozens of heavily armed "warriors" against traditionalists opposed to a gambling business run by the tribe.

The Canadian authorities welcomed the decision of Mr Mario Cuomo, the Governor of New York, to overcome his reluctance and send state troopers on to the six-square-mile reservation which straddles the border between northern New York and Ontario province.

Matthew Pyke, aged 22, had died in hospital in Malone, New York State, of injuries suffered in the battle. The body of a second victim, Wilbur Edwards, aged 32, was found slumped against a cabin in the Canadian portion of the reservation late on Tuesday afternoon.

Sporadic gunfire could still be heard as police took up positions in the early hours, marching through scenes of burnt-out cars and roadblocks reminiscent of Belfast or Beirut. Mohawks told the police that a house had been bombed in retaliation for the deaths, which were the first since the self-styled Warrior Society and their vigilante opponents began firing thousands of rounds from AK-47 assault rifles and throwing grenades a week ago.

The area where the killings took place, though in Quebec, is accessible only through New York territory and state police had to provide an escort for investigating officers of the Quebec provincial police.

Otherwise the reservation remained sealed off to outsiders yesterday as authorities on both sides of the border sought ways of cooling passions. State officials, members of the clergy and experts from the Martin Luther King Centre in Atlanta are on the reservation trying to mediate in the dispute.

Traffic across an international bridge that spans the St Lawrence river at that point was rerouted to another bridge 30 miles away.

Between 9,000 and 10,000 Mohawks live on the self-governing reservation. On Tuesday, in the midst of the open battle, Mr Harold Tardiff, the Mohawk chief, pleaded with Mr Cuomo to call out the National Guard. "We don't know what else to do. Capitalization and living in terror is too high a price."

The police action follows

## Germans questioned over Libya plant fire

Rome

LIBYA's official news agency said that two West Germans were being interrogated in connection with the mysterious fire at the Rabta chemical plant in Libya in March.

A West German company had helped build the plant, which the United States claims produced poison gas. The Jana news agency identified the Germans being questioned as a company executive and a technician for the firm. (AP)

## Heroin arrest

Canberra — Mr Prasart Yooyen, allegedly the main importer of heroin into Australia, has been arrested in Thailand in an international operation that would shatter the Australian drug network, Mr Michael Tate, the Justice Minister, said. (AFP)

## News closure

Suva — The Fijian authorities ordered the closure of Pacnews, a regional news service in the South Pacific, and expelled two West Germans, after a row triggered by calls for greater freedom of information here. (AFP)

## Treason charge

Port Moresby — Mr Paul Tohian, who was sacked as Papua New Guinea police commissioner in March for allegedly trying to overthrow the Government, was charged with treason. (Reuters)

## Boats repulsed

Kuala Lumpur — Malaysia has pushed more than 6,000 Vietnamese boat people away from its shores, including 2,268 in 47 boats since mid-February, diplomatic sources said. (Reuters)

## Everest forecast

Wellington — New Zealand teenagers trying to clean up the base camp area on Nepal's Mount Everest expect to collect at least five tonnes of rubbish, Mr John Gully, the expedition leader, said. (AFP)

## Mine disaster

Peking — Thirty miners were killed and another 11 injured in a mine explosion in the north-eastern Chinese province of Heilongjiang last month, according to a regional radio broadcast. (AP)

## Police death

Colombo — At least four people, including a policeman, have died in a renewed outburst of violence in Sri Lanka, the authorities said. (AFP)



Mr Cuomo: Overcame his reluctance to intervene

## Norway wants to restart whaling

From A Correspondent, Oslo

NORWAY is in effect to seek a resumption of commercial whaling after a moratorium of almost five years, ministry sources confirmed yesterday. The move is set to provoke the wrath of conservation and animal-rights groups.

After pressure from American conservationists, Oslo agreed in 1986 to join the moratorium recommended by the International Whaling Commission (IWC), a self-regulatory body whose decisions carry great moral and scientific authority but are not legally binding on members.

The commission is to hold its annual meeting in The Netherlands in July, and it is there that Norway will press for the removal of the small minke whale from the list of protected species.

The decision, which has not yet been officially announced here, was made after a five-year, £10 million research programme into whale stocks by the Norwegian fisheries and environment ministries in 1988. Although far from complete, the survey — which is meant to cover the equally

controversial animal-rights issue of sealing — shows, according to Norwegian scientists, that minke whale populations have been seriously underestimated since the 1950s at least.

Estimates of 20,000 animals in Norwegian waters have been amended to 77,000: more than sufficient, the Norwegians insist, to justify the resumption of commercial whaling. The IWC had planned to review its moratorium at the July meeting.

The United States, Britain and Ireland are expected to press for an extension of the ban. Pressure from the Nordic countries — both Iceland and the Danish Faroe Islands were previously keen whalers — to resume commercial whaling would almost certainly provoke political reprisals.

American conservationists have consistently lobbied for bans on Nordic fish imports if those nations failed to mend their ways.

Norway, moreover, has been accused of dumping farmed salmon on the US market at giveaway prices in recent years.

## Satellite sex films anger Alabama

From Charles Bremner, New York

IN a case that sets an ominous precedent for the satellite television industry, a prosecutor in Alabama is trying to extradite the directors of a New York broadcasting company to face criminal charges for transmitting sexually explicit films from space into his county.

The prosecution, which is the first to pit information age technology against 19th century obscenity laws, has already driven the Home Dish Satellite Corporation out of business and dragged in some of America's largest telecommunications conglomerates, including GTE, Spacenet and Hughes.

The affair began when Mr Jimmy Evans, the Montgomery County Prosecutor, who is running for election to the office of state Attorney-General, declared war on smut. He found that 30 local residents were watching "R-Tuxedo Channel, which features 'R-rated' films — those with mild erotic content — and 22 were subscribing to the Exstasy Channel, which transmits hardcore sex films. The directors of Home Dish, who had never set foot in

Alabama, were then indicted by a Montgomery grand jury under local obscenity laws.

Several big communications companies that carry the Home Dish signal across America and beyond immediately dropped it, forcing the flourishing New York company to close. Mr Evans has now applied to Mr Mario Cuomo, the New York state Governor, for the directors' extradition to his state.

Defending Home Dish, Mr Norman Dorsen, the president of the American Civil Liberties Union, said: "It is shocking to think that Alabama could reach out and chill free speech in all 50 states."

The case is already sending a chill through the offices of the big satellite-cable networks which transmit films to over half of American households. "If there's any kind of trouble with Tuxedo, there's potential trouble for all the major cable companies like HBO, Cinemax and the Movie Channel," Mr Dorsen, who is himself acting as a defence lawyer, told *The New York Times*. All those companies regularly broadcast films with an "R" rating. The

great majority of popular commercial films fall into the category.

Mr Mark Ellison, chief counsel for the Satellite Broadcasting Communications Association, said the trade was particularly troubled by the indictment of the Tuxedo network.

Along with Home Dish, the Montgomery grand jury has indicted GTE, Spacenet and United States Satellite for carrying the alleged obscene signals. The case is the second in the country in a month in which local prosecutors in conservative parts of America have used local obscenity laws against art or entertainment that is tolerated on the national level.

In the other highly publicized case, prosecutors in Cincinnati have put the director of the city's art museum on trial for holding an exhibition of photographs by the late Robert Mapplethorpe that won critical acclaim when staged in New York and other cities.

Civil liberties groups say the Montgomery case reaches far beyond local concerns because, if successful, it could open the way to the bounding of broadcasters across the country.

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## LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Today's local elections are about the running of Britain's cities, towns and county districts. They are not a public opinion poll. They are not meant to be a judgement on Mrs Thatcher, on her Government at Westminster, or on the vexed matter of the poll tax. They are to select the men and women who are to run local administration.

Those of all political persuasions who treat local polls as surrogate general elections are merely playing the centralist game. They are enemies of local democracy and fall into the trap which many, including some in the present Government, have set for them. This trap is constantly to discredit localism in politics and remit its freedom of manoeuvre to Westminster and Whitehall.

Local government, once Labour's pride and joy, has for the past quarter century been its Achilles' heel, and Mr Neil Kinnock knows it. He has often pointed out the corruption and incompetence of local Labour parties to strengthen his central power base. His reformist zeal has not been confined to his national executive, but has embraced also the structure of local parties and their relations with the unions.

Mr Kinnock has also cultivated some of the more astute local city leaders, such as Mr David Blunkert of Sheffield and Lady Hollis of Norwich. In towns such as Newcastle, Birmingham and Southampton a new "municipal socialism" has been proclaimed, clean, efficient, enterprising and customer-friendly. City leaders are ready to work with the private sector, with European agencies, even with the Government's once-hated urban development corporations. They have joined the older American cities in recognizing that urban renewal must depend on ideological compromise and on partnership.

Yet Labour can still — astonishingly — fight an election with far-left Liverpool, Manchester, Calderdale, Hackney and Brent comfortably under its banner. Squalid housing estates, politicized schools, filthy streets remain a monument to what remains the essence of Labour in power, the relentless, apparently helpless, appeasement of public sector unions.

No resident of modern Camden will be persuaded that the forces which destroyed Lord Callaghan's Government in 1979 have been diminished in the slightest.

Mr Kinnock's party fiercely resisted all efforts by the Government to curtail the power of these local unions. These attempts included breaking up the housing estate empires, forcing councils to put their cleaning and other services out to tender, stopping neighbouring councillors giving each other jobs and using ratepayers' money for political ends. Exotic local spending on nuclear-free zones and holidays for "sexually disadvantaged" staff may not be widespread, but showed a contempt for the public money of which Labour asks today to be made custodian.

Tory rate-capping over the past five years has made local Labour parties, if anything, even more irresponsible, but that is not the point. Unbridled municipal socialism is a conspiracy against efficiency and in favour of corruption. Where socialism can show a more humane face, as in certain "moderate" northern cities, this owes much to the enforced competence insisted on by a Conservative government.

Mrs Thatcher's cynicism towards local democracy should therefore be separated from Thatcherism's impact on local government itself. The latter has brought a desperately needed realism to many council administrations. Authorities such as Bradford and Wandsworth are not just cosmetically efficient. Incoming Tory parties had to struggle against the most entrenched union interests to reduce waste and offer a better service to the public.

Certainly Toryism knows its own corruptions — notably in planning — but local government is primarily about the allocation and administration of resources. Tory councillors tend to be more committed to careful management, to government as an impartial regulator and enabler rather than as a defender of interest and a builder of bureaucratic empires. As guardians of this corner of the welfare state, Tory councillors offer better value for money.

## TWO PLUS FOUR

A phrase coined by Sir Karl Popper should ring in the ears of the statesmen converging on Brussels and Bonn for Nato meetings and the opening skirmish between the two Germanies and the four occupation powers. Freedom, the philosopher wrote, is not the outcome of anonymous historical processes but rests "with our watchfulness, with our efforts, and with the clarity of our conception of our aims, and with the realism of their choice." It is the last of those phrases which should reverberate as the "two-plus-four" talks face what could be the first real test of allied nerve since the world turned upside down last November.

Those who guide the fortunes of Nato must close their ears to many of the illusions about defence, deterrence and the future of Europe which are now proliferating. Many European politicians are starting to talk not of the end of history, but of the end of defence. The connections between national interests, safety, diplomacy and the possession of military force scarcely seem to exist in public dialogue. Its role in securing western values in the first four decades of the post-war era is lavishly praised — and dumped in the dustbin of history. Longings have revived for multilateral talking shops, which would stretch from Vancouver to Vladivostok and yet be expected to take decisive action against threats to democracy.

Realism has never been more important. Force remains necessary, not as an instrument of policy but as an insurance. Save for those who believe that Nato should enter into the spirit of the moment and self-destruct, the nature of German participation in Nato is the issue on which all else depends. The assurances from both sides of the West German political spectrum that Germany will remain in Nato beg two main questions: the status of what is now East Germany and the type and quantity of men and matériel which Nato can deploy.

Will Nato be allowed, as it should be, to retain nuclear weapons in West Germany? It is quite possible for a country to be a "member" of an alliance while playing a minor role in its defence arrangements.

The Soviet side at the "two-plus-four" talks has now signalled that they will insist that the reunification of Germany be synchronised with the creation of a European security system. Other signs of a tough stance have also emerged. If the past is any guide, this will bring forth appeals in the West for Nato to show understanding for Mr Gorbachev's difficulties and to keep the various East-West negotiations moving along.

Undue delay in the progress towards German reunification holds greater risks for the Soviet Union and its beleaguered garrisons in East Germany than it does for any other country. In the end, Moscow will have to face the fact that a European security system cannot hold up reunification. "Two-plus-four" may become acrimonious. The "Open Skies" negotiation has already hit turbulence. The conventional force talks have returned to where they started by worrying over how to define a tank. All of this could make the grand CSCE meeting more difficult to convene this autumn than at first appeared.

Nothing is more important than ensuring that the Soviet Union understands that it cannot neutralise Germany and western defence at the same time. Providing that lesson is learnt, realistic choices can be made in negotiation on both sides. The CSCE may well be amenable to extending its powers to mediate nationality and border disputes; Nato will indeed change as its military needs shrink. There are many new cooperative structures which can be built — provided the builders can work upwards and outwards from Nato's well-tested military foundations.

## CONFIDENCE IN THE POLICE

The Police Complaints Authority's attack on the secrecy of the police complaints procedure coincides with the publication of a *Which?* survey showing widespread lack of public confidence in it. *Which?* declares that almost four out of ten people do not think there is any point in complaining about bad behaviour by the police. Since public confidence is a prior condition for the administration of justice, this is a serious matter.

The survey confirms what was shown by the Operational Policing Review published in March, that most people, asked whether they are satisfied or dissatisfied with the police, elect for the former. However, there is a mass of detailed dissatisfaction concealed behind this. Those, for instance, who had recently had dealings with the police were less satisfied than those who had not.

Lack of public confidence is precisely the issue at which the recent controversy over an "officer class" in the police was directed. The Home Secretary should now look more urgently for radical ways of improving the quality of leadership, especially at the most senior levels, and should not be impressed by the traditional police view that the only route to the top must be a bobby on the beat is offset by done his time as a bobby on the beat is offset by done his time in the staff canteen, exposed to the notorious "canteen culture" where blacks are blacks and women are women, and both should know their place.

Most people have little contact with the police, and would like more — of the right sort. The March review drew attention to a disparity between what the public wants — a visible preventative role in the community —

and the police's own priorities, which are the arrest of villains and the detection of crime. The latter is a reactive role, epitomized by the occasional penetration into the community (under a blue flashing light) for a specific and urgent purpose. The former is represented by the policeman routinely on the beat, making friends and hearing things, a symbol of peaceful propriety.

The Police Complaints Authority's annual report wonders why the police could not be more open about how the public should protest about police abuse. In particular, complainants should be told more than they now are about the outcome of a complaint and the reasons for it. This attitude must also stem from police distrust of the public, a feeling that what goes on inside the police station is really none of its business. The attitude is the antithesis of policing by consent.

The report also raps police knuckles for not taking seriously enough the rules on the general conduct of enquiries. The rules exist to protect the rights of individuals, whereas the police tend to regard them as red tape, likely to get in the way of a successful outcome. Perhaps public opinion has itself been at fault, by demanding results in the fighting of crime which can be achieved only by short-cuts. But here again, the public need to be told the truth.

Everybody should reflect long and hard on the lessons of the Guildford Four case, and on the fiasco of the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad. The drive for arrests and convictions at any cost may bring praise and congratulations at the time, but whatever short-term gain can be had by bending the rules, the harm to public confidence of a few spectacular wrongful convictions far outweighs it.

## Keeping control in a wider Europe

From the Editor of *New European* Sir, It seems to be assumed by Chancellor Kohl, and President Mitterrand in particular, that the way to contain the enlarged Germany that will emerge from reunification is to fix her firmly into a substantially more integrated European Community than exists at present. This was certainly the message coming out of the Dublin Summit (report and communiqué, April 30) and from the statements of both the chancellor and the president (report, April 27).

A moment's reflection would reveal that the major concern of most of Germany's neighbours is the possibility of the re-emergence of a German military/industrial complex of enormous superiority at the heart of Europe. The way to deal with that is not primarily through the Community, but through Nato. Manfred Womer, his new German secretary-general, has recently suggested that Nato, rather than concentrating on a single enemy as it has had to do for the duration of the cold war, should create a new security system which could prevent, as far as technically and humanly possible, the emergence of any new militarism anywhere in Europe — in his own words:

"The great danger is that *ad hoc* decisions made hurriedly could constrain the democratic development of these countries for very many years to come (as, for example, the electoral system in Israel has constrained that country's political development)."

Having been involved in advising both the Hungarian and the Czechoslovak governments, I can testify that there is a very great demand indeed for British expertise in these areas. So far, however, it does not seem as if we are doing as much as either the Germans, whose party foundations have made a considerable impact, or the Americans, who are putting an enormous amount of effort into advising on the infrastructure of democracy.

It is to be hoped that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's "Know-How" Fund will be able to grasp the scale of the problem and ensure that Britain makes its appropriate contribution, not just to Poland, but to all the emerging democracies of the region.

Yours faithfully, VERNON BOGDANOR, Brasenose College, Oxford.

It would seem to be much more sensible to hold back on excessive integration and to construct a balance economically within the somewhat looser Community as we have it at present between the enlarged Germany on the one hand and the rest of the Community.

Objective news From Mr Gerald Long Sir, Observation inevitably modifies facts. Responsible journalists, being conscious of this effect, try to reduce it to a minimum in news coverage, holding that their function is to report events, not to influence them.

The BBC does not share this view. The interviewers in its main news programmes on Radio Four have developed a style which is aggressive or tendentious, sometimes both, and seems designed to have the maximum effect on the course of conflicts in British society. During the Strangeways affair the constantly-recurring question: is the use of force being considered? made the BBC the focal point of controversy, going far beyond the reporting of different opinions.

In a recent industrial dispute such questions as: is there new money on the table? made it seem

Clean beaches From Mr T. J. King Sir, Although Minehead and Dunster appeared in your map (Health, April 19) on potential beach hazards, your readers will not encounter any problems there. Wessex Water plc has invested over £12 million in a new sewage treatment works, abolishing the sea outfall which has caused some pollution in the past.

The works came into operation last autumn. The Good Beach Guide listings are based upon tests taken last summer. Yours sincerely, TIM KING (Tourism Officer), West Somerset Council, 20 Fore Street, Williton, Taunton, Somerset, April 26.

Due difficulty From Mrs Norma Osmond Sir, Can any reader offer advice on how to pay one's dues nowadays?

I cancel my personal AmEx card — the cost was exorbitant in relation to expenditure. I cancel my Lloyds Access card, after the introduction of a £12 annual charge. I cancel the only other card up my sleeve — my Barclaycard — because the annual charge is to be £8 (report, April 25).

I go to my travel agent to settle a

bill of £400. "We don't take personal cheques; can we have your credit or charge card?" The only cards left: a cheque card, and my building society cheque card with a guarantee of £50. I don't often carry £400 in cash. Should I now carry travellers' cheques? But then, there's the commission... Yours faithfully, NORMA OSMOND, 40 Stanhope Gardens, SW7, April 25.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Plans for Natural History Museum

From Dr David L. Harrison and Dr Paul J. Bates Sir, As scientific visitors for over 60 years between us, we are amazed both by the proposals for the reorganisation of the Natural History Museum and by some of the misapprehensions reflected in your leading article (April 27).

Whole sections of the museum are faced with at least partial suspension, with scientific staff undertaking little or, in many cases, no research. Some individual staff members, many quite young, are faced with the prospect of spending the rest of their working lives doing little more than cleaning shelves in many cases with no prospect of advancement up the hierarchy.

Others, vastly experienced in their own fields of research, are being "retired". Apparently it is considered "esoteric" to study the taxonomy of "unfashionable" groups including, amazingly, mammals and birds. It is also supposedly "esoteric" to try and understand the diversity of animal life, the distribution of species, their relative abundance or scarcity and, heaven forbid, their evolutionary history.

Other definitely "non-U" subjects include the study of natural extinction rates; climate change as seen through the perspective eye of the palaeontologist; even these popular favourites, mammoths and Archaeopteryx, are to be abandoned.

It is ironic, now that the world has realised the importance of conservation, that the museum holding the greatest concentration of experts within all fields of natural history should be effectively curtailed. Yours faithfully, DAVID L. HARRISON (Director), PAUL BATES, Harrison Zoological Museum, Bowerwood House, St Botolph's Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, May 1.

From Dr Penny Wheatcroft Sir, Your leader of April 27 falls into the classic "king's new clothes" trap, assuming that any glossy presented change is necessarily for the good. Its insidious sub-text is that the new Director of the Natural History Museum, Dr Chalmers, is valiantly battling against a rusty horde of "curators of the old school".

Nothing could be further from the truth. The museum's importance as an international centre of excellence in taxonomy and mineralogy continues in the face of inadequate Government funding and managerial hostility.

Yours faithfully, REBECCA HUXLEY, 35 Duke Street, Oxford.

### Keeping art treasures

From the Earl of Perth Sir, Your leader, "Saving Graces" (May 1), raises importantly the issue of how we should protect Britain's art inheritance in a booming world art market. You advocate a comprehensive list whose export should be restricted.

Maybe. But there are many ways of killing a cat and deciding who should do the deed. The Waverley criteria governing what should or should not be stopped have broadly stood the test of time; it is what to do after the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art advocates the refusal of a licence to export which is the trouble.

The present protective system has valiantly staggered to stay alive on a hit-or-miss basis. In the last five years £20 million of treasures have been saved, but £80 million have left these shores, probably for ever. The Government's acceptance of art in lieu of death duties is not included in these figures, nor are the special grants for special purposes — both very welcome.

The issue involves many — the public and museums; the owners, who must be fairly treated; the dealers in art treasures; and last but not least, the too many departments of the Government.

### Branches of surgery

From Father George Donaldson Sir, "Tree surgeon", "concrete surgeon" (letter, April 28) — where will it all end? Some time ago I had the services of a "bath doctor" who rejuvenated an ageing bath and returned it to its pristine condition. Yours faithfully, GEORGE DONALDSON, Chesters College, 2 Chesters Road, Bearsden, Glasgow.

### NHS reforms

From Mr J. C. Smith Sir, Mr Roger Freeman (April 25), in his reply to Sir Henry Yellowlees, shows how little he appreciates the extent of current deficiencies in health service information systems. These are very obvious to those of us who work at the grass roots.

In statistics for cross-regional referral to our unit, a key part of the White Paper, the regional figure for 1989 contained an error of almost 2,000 per cent! Yet it is on these figures that our performance will be judged and our budgets fixed.

Mr Freeman says that pilot studies should not be implemented. Yet no clinician or scientist would ever make radical changes without a preliminary (i.e., pilot) assessment of their feasibility. By rejecting them, Mr Freeman seems to want to make his errors on a grand, rather than a small and containable, scale. Yours faithfully, JOE SMITH (Consultant urological surgeon), The Churchill Hospital, Headington, Oxford.

### Sweet mystery of life

From Captain R. K. Arthur Sir, As a Rotarian I applaud Mr Laurie's work in brightening by-passes with daffodils (April 28), but as a beekeeper I wish his Rotary club would plant crocuses instead. These would meet his needs because they have a wide colour range, flower earlier than daffodils, and are less easy for the lazy thief to pick. However, of more importance, crocuses, unlike daffodils, are one of the few rich sources of pollen early in the year.

Pollen contains the essential protein food for bee larvae and enables colonies to survive the winter in a fit state to continue their pollination service which, for mankind, is an even greater boon than brighter by-passes. Yours faithfully, R. K. ARTHUR (Honorary Treasurer, Littlehampton and Arundel Beekeepers' Association), 18 Church Street, Littlehampton, West Sussex.

From Mr C. J. Barker Sir, I have known for a long time what a swarm of bees in either May or June is worth. What is the worth of the swarm which arrived in one of our chimneys at lunch time today?

On enquiring of our local authority as to the means to have them removed without doing them any harm I was told to get in the queue behind the 18 people who had already reported swarms. Yours faithfully, C. J. BARKER, Mount Pleasant, Clifton, Woodbridge, Suffolk, April 30.















David Robinson reviews the latest cinema releases: *Sweetie*, *Internal Affairs*, *See You in the Morning* and *Nuns on the Run*

# Mixed bag, with a dusting of sugar

Jane Campion's first feature film, *Sweetie* (15, Chelsea Cinema, Camden Plaza), is the dark side of *Neighbours*: an absurdist tragedy of family life in Sydney working-class suburbia. Her characters are outwardly ordinary people who are quite incapable of rational relationships with one another.

Kay (Karen Colston), although she seems the sanest, has a neurotic terror of trees (which in the outcome proves to be justified) and a slavish obedience to the divinations of the tea leaves. She lives in a drab, untidy house with a drab, untidy backyard undefined by trees or any other greenery, and has stopped having sex with her docile boyfriend.

Their quiet lives are disrupted by the arrival of sister Dawn, known as *Sweetie* (Genevieve Lemon), accompanied by her spaced-out but sexually energetic junkie boyfriend. Dawn is seriously retarded, an overweight woman who still behaves like a vicious, spoilt child. The family circle is completed by Dad, still doting, in some bizarre incestuous nostalgia, on *Sweetie* and Mum, who has gone on walkabout into the wilderness after years of marital boredom.

Jane Campion is 35 and made her name with a handful of short films which, like *Sweetie*, probe the strange, tormented inner worlds of seemingly ordinary people. (A selection of these earlier works can currently be seen at the ICA in a season called "Wizards from Oz".)

She has an ability to juxtapose the comic and the awful, in exposing the horrors of family life. At the same moment we find ourselves laughing with *Sweetie* and at her; we are exasperated by her messy madness, yet equally appalled by the callousness and lack of understanding with which the others treat her.

Genevieve Lemon's *Sweetie*, by turns grotesque, demonic, comic, pitiable, is one of a whole finely calculated ensemble of performances by actors new to the screen — notably Karen Colston's perpetually anxious Kay, Tom Lypce for her deaf, sweet, imperturbable boyfriend, and Jon Darling and Dorothy Barry as the

ultimate suburban parents. Jane Campion's eye for the bizarre is most notably evident in the impromptu dance at the jackaroo camp, and the catastrophic denouement — a spectacle of human helplessness.

Whether you like it or not (its premiere at Cannes last year turned into a contest between catcalls and cheers), *Sweetie* is a film unlike the rest — as distinctively offbeat as a work by Jim Jarmusch.

The old cops-and-robbers film has been superseded by cops-and-cops, now that police corruption runs neck and neck with drugs as a staple thriller theme. *Internal Affairs* (18, Plaza 1) pits an officer of the Los Angeles Police Internal Affairs Department against a reptilian bent cop, who runs rackets on a massive scale and has a genius for psychological manipulation of his adversaries — including the investigator himself.

The English director, Mike Figgis, directing his first Hollywood film, gives pace, tension and (thanks to John A. Alonzo's virtuoso camerawork) atmosphere to an essentially conventional plot. The central performances, too, are compelling enough to hide inconsistencies in their characters and behaviour (the *Internal Affairs* man veers capriciously between tough professionalism and neurotic breakdown).

Richard Gere (interviewed below) reverts to the kind of unsympathetic role with which he began his career. As the bent cop, he skillfully implies the deep pathological disorders underlying the killer cop's crimes, his dare-devilery and his compulsive sexuality. Cuban-born Andy Garcia manages to give charisma and conviction to his less promising part. As his partner in investigation, Laurie Metcalfe's sardonic and sexually ambivalent policewoman is an original characterization.

Written and directed by Alan J. Pakula and looking very much like autobiography, *See You in the Morning* (12, Warner West End) relates the traumas of affluent New Yorkers experiencing divorce and remarriage. Having



An eye for the bizarre: Genevieve Lemon, in the strange, tormented inner world of *Sweetie*, is grotesque, demonic, comic and pitiable

gone through the collapse of what seemed like an ideal, two-child marriage, a successful psychiatrist (Jeff Bridges) marries a widow with two children and a terrible load of guilt about her recently dead husband.

Hearts are worn prominently on sleeves, as the film painstakingly — not to say ponderously — works through the problems of each of the characters involved (three parents, four children and a dog). Supplementary episodes take us painfully through the deaths of the second wife's husband and the first wife's mother.

Considering that the main character is a psychiatrist, that everyone is deeply concerned to seem civil, civilized and sophisticated, and that they all talk such a lot, they really ought to handle their problems more expeditiously. The comfort is that we are accompanied on this marital odyssey by such likeable people as the amiable Bridges, Farrah Fawcett, former Royal Shakespeare Company actress Alice Krige, and two interesting teenagers — Drew Barrymore, the little girl from *E.T.*, and Lukas Heller, the mouse-like boy from *Witness*.

There's no joke like an old joke; and *Nuns on the Run* (12, Odson Haymarket) runs resolutely through the whole repertoire of drag pags. The story is very similar to *Some Like It Hot*. Pursued by Docklands Mafia and the Triads, petty gangsters Robbie Coltrane and Eric Idle seek sanctuary in a convent, disguised as nuns.

Written and directed by Jonathan Lynn, the film does not aim at subtlety. Here, predictably, are all the old gags about false bosoms and nubile convent pupils in the showers. The film shares with most contemporary, post-television comedy the fault of unrestrained gaudiness; and the script never manages to integrate the

likeable Camille Coduri (in the Marilyn Monroe part, as a myopic psychology student) into the story.

The fun in the film lies mainly in the performances, and particularly the effect upon our heroes of taking the veil. While skirts make idle skittish and coy, Coltrane finds his Catholic upbringing catching up on him, and enters seriously into the part, even struggling gamely to expound the Trinity ("It's a bit of a bugger, really") to his friend. The worldly, ill-tempered nuns have Janet Suzman as their Mother Superior and enduring octogenarian Doris Hare as the forgetful oldest inhabitant.

## Carefully playing the system

Two new films put Richard Gere back on to the A-lists, says Simon Banner

Contrary to recent reports in the tabloid press along the lines of "Heart-throb star to quit movies", Richard Gere, whose films include *American Gigolo* and *An Officer and a Gentleman*, is not giving up his acting career in order to become "a full-time Buddhist".

Since he met the Dalai Lama eight years ago in Nepal, Gere's somewhat improbable but deeply-felt involvement with Buddhism has steadily increased; at home in New York he is founding chairman of Tibet House, a cultural and educational centre which also raises money for Tibetan refugees. But Gere, who has just turned 40 and now has grey hair, still takes acting assignments and appears in two new films being released almost simultaneously.

The first is a bloody thriller called *Internal Affairs* (see review, above), directed by a Briton, Mike Figgis, on his first outing in Hollywood. Gere has played likeable characters before — "There's a trick I can do," he says, "which is to take negative characters and make them palatable" — but none as apparently irredeemable as the crooked cop he plays in *Internal Affairs*. He says that when he first read the script he finished by throwing it across the room "because it was about such disgusting people".

The Dalai Lama apparently once asked Gere if it is true that when a character in a film is angry, the actor too is angry. He laughed very hard when Gere told him that yes, this was one approach. The lesson for Gere seems to have been to avoid letting his roles spill over into his life. "That saves me a lot of grief," he says. Yet he was so carried away shooting one scene in *Internal Affairs* that he ended up in hospital with severe cuts. That

particular take is not in the finished film, because the camera was out of focus.

By contrast to *Internal Affairs*, the other film, a shamelessly old-fashioned and surprisingly enjoyable romantic comedy entitled *Pretty Woman* (released in Britain next week), appears to have involved him in nothing more demanding than frequent changes of his designer suits and ties. Yet it is *Pretty Woman*, a sort of *My Fair Lady* for the Nineties, that has given Gere the hit he has so evidently needed in the last few years: the film took close to \$30 million in its first 10 days of release in the United States.

Since 1982 and the success of *An Officer and a Gentleman*, none of Gere's films has succeeded at the box office. Some, like Coppola's *The Cotton Club* and Sidney Lumet's *Power*, have been almost-noble failures. Others, such as the ill-fated, not to say ridiculous, Biblical epic *King David*, have been notorious embarrassments and have only hardened Gere's image as a pretty-boy actor out of his depth as soon as he leaves the bedroom. "No male star since Rin Tin Tin has spent more time on screen minus clothes," one reviewer acidly observed.

Beyond making him a contender for those straightforwardly

charming, Cary Grant-type roles that Hollywood finds so hard to fill, *Pretty Woman* will not change anyone's mind about Richard Gere, but it will at least ensure that the top studios' casting directors restore him to their A-lists. Gere himself admits to having had a sense that his credit was running out with Hollywood in the last few years: "It became time to take care of my career again," he says.

His own long-cherished projects include a film he plans to produce and star in, called *Imagining Argentina*, scripted by Christopher Hampton; and a big-screen adaptation of Martin Sherman's *Bent*, a play Gere first appeared in on Broadway 10 years ago. He would also like to do *Coriolanus* on stage. Gere expresses distaste for most of what Hollywood produces — he turned down *Die Hard*, for example, because of its extreme violence, and he rails against "the untimely clichés" of last year's comedy hit, *Working Girl*. *Pretty Woman*, he says, has at least "no pretence about being sociological". But he will continue to work within the system.

Gere says that an attempt to change Hollywood and capitalist movie-making would be useless. "You can't expect an apple to be a banana, can you?" he asks, and smiles an inscrutable smile.



Gere: An irredeemably crooked cop in *Internal Affairs*

## Pick of the proms

Richard Morrison chooses the potential highlights of this summer's season

There is always a certain frisson, bordering on genteel hysteria, on the day when the BBC unveils its new season of Henry Wood Promenade Concerts. The traditionalists turn furiously to the end first to check that British music's hallowed "dream ticket" (Elgar/Wood/Arne/Parry) is safely in place on the Last Night. It is. Then they tot up the number of Beethoven and Brahms symphonies (a bulky 10 this year), scour the pages of the Prospect for the Viennese Night (August 27), and lament the uprooting — for the second year running — of Beethoven's Choral Symphony from the penultimate night.

Chauvinists deplore the presence of Poulenc when there is no Purcell. Modernists bawl "what, no Stockhausen?", early-music devotees search anxiously for appearances by the reigning gurus: Norrington, Pinnock, Eliot Gardiner. Finally, about 15,000 British composers raise a simultaneous shout of "fix!" because they are not among the half-dozen given a Proms commission by the BBC.

This year, the season (July 20 to September 15, Albert Hall) has a notably non-experimental look, especially in comparison with the weird and wonderful Proms of 20 years ago. Where are the concertos of electronically-synthesized whale calls juxtaposed with 12th-century liturgical dance-dramas? John Drummond, Controller of Radio 3, might argue that it was precisely because last year's season avoided such esoteric pockets that it achieved a remarkable 85 per cent average attendance. Perhaps he also has his eye on wooing the commercial sponsors who are going to help finance the Proms in the years to come.

Nevertheless, the season covers an enormous range of styles and repertoires, and the cost of a standing season-ticket for all 66 concerts (£95 arena, £70 gallery) is still less than that of a single top-price stalls ticket at Covent Garden. Since the season contains no fewer than six complete operas, that is an interesting comparison. With its spectacle of thousands of youngsters standing motionless and transfixed by sound, the Proms remains the greatest advertisement for classical music. Here is a subjective selection of 10 potential superlatives:

Most divisive interpretation: Mozart opera lovers brought up on Böhm and Karajan may loathe Roger Norrington's approach to *The Magic Flute* (August 25). For the rest: high-speed revelation. Jolliest Prom: Bank Holiday luncheon (August 27) in Kensington Gardens, when the London All-Stars Steelband is borrowed from the adjacent Notting Hill Carnival.

Most sedate: Same day, two hours later, the vast cubic capacity of the Albert Hall will tingle with chamber music from just three players:



Cleo Laine: The "Voice of God" in *Noyes Fludde*

the Beaux Arts Trio. However, as Churchill might have observed: some players, some music. Cheekiest literary allusion: "Bonfires of Vanities" (August 20) turns out to be nothing to do with Manhattan Angst, but much to do with Medici weddings in the 16th century. Philip Pickett's fine New London Consort derives its programme title from the ageing medieval practice of burning those works of art deemed blasphemous, and sometimes the artists too. The world has changed little.

Wonderkind of the season: Russian pianist Evgeny Kissin plays Tchaikovsky's First Concerto (July 27). When this teenager performed the piece with the late Herbert von Karajan in Salzburg, the maestro was so entranced by the playing that he forgot to cue the flute's entry after the cadenza: rather a crucial error.

Most nostalgic evocation of the Sixties: Tippett's opera *The Ice Break* (July 23) was written in the early Seventies, but its general hypothesis, that love can solve global problems, and its touchingly surreal use of slang (the chick is cool, man) places it firmly in the lower-power era.

Most intriguing title: Mark-Anthony Turnage's recent orchestral piece is called *Three Screaming Popes* (July 31). As Simon Rattle, who conducts it, once memorably remarked: "not a work to tour Italy with". Biggest jolt to the purists: A Russian performing Elgar's Cello Concerto, and on the viola? Lionel Tertis's transcription is expert; Yuri Bashmet is a superb player; dihard Elgarians need not fear (August 9).

Best lesson in precision: The Cleveland Orchestra (September 5, 6) is the ultimate exemplar of clipped, exact music-making: a marvellous tonic for two concerts, even if a whole season with it might prove exhausting.

Wittiest castings: Husky jazz chanteuse Cleo Laine as the "Voice of God" in Britten's *Noyes Fludde* (September 9).

## Romantic rhymes

CONCERT  
Noël Goodwin  
Szymanowski Songs  
Purcell Room

PIANIST Iain Burnside hit upon a pretty conceit with which to end his short series of Szymanowski song programmes in the South Bank's celebration of "Poland's Last Romantic": children's songs.

In a selection from the composer's *Children's Rhymes* of 1923, characteristics of Polish folk song were adorned with a veneer of harmonic sophistication in settings of nursery and nonsense verse.

They were ingeniously interspersed with corresponding songs by Stravinsky and the younger Witold Lutoslawski, and each shift of musical identity imparted a continuing freshness to the ditties. Stravinsky's setting of *The Owl* and the Pussy-Cat could have been more colourfully verbalized, but otherwise the Slav tradition of

imaginative children's music was divertingly honoured.

The songs were split between the soprano Jennifer Smith and the tenor Jamie MacDougall. Both had taken trouble with detail as well as character in singing original Polish and Russian texts. The tenor brought a caressing warmth to his selection, but the soprano's admirable musical intentions were impeded by an inadequate technique of *mezza voce* to sustain some softer passages.

This, to some extent, affected her otherwise accomplished account of the remarkable and difficult *Polskie Liryki*, Op. 41, in which Szymanowski came closest to an expressionist idiom reminiscent of early Schoenberg. The piano playing here was expert, following the subtle shading of romantic contour in the Polish composer's treatment of German poets. These were directly compared with Strauss and the earliest Berg, their distinctively personal emotional character contrasted with Szymanowski's curiously anonymous equivalent.



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## HEALTH

Evidence is growing that alcoholism might have a genetic cause, Liz Gill reports

There is a moment in *Key Largo* when the character played by Lauren Bacall, increasingly agitated by withdrawal symptoms, pleads with Edward G. Robinson for her first drink of the day. He tells her: "Everybody has their first drink but everybody ain't a lush."

Michael Mullin scribbled down the line when he saw the film. For him, it summed up a conundrum: "We all take a drink, we might take several drinks, but only a few per cent of us go on to become alcoholics. The great question is why."

Scientists in the United States announced recently that they had identified a genetic abnormality in more than three-quarters of alcoholics they studied, adding weight to the argument that heavy drinkers are born, not made.

Alcoholism as a family trait has been observed for a long time: an estimated 40 per cent of victims have a parent, sibling or child with the same condition. Studies involving children brought up separately from their natural parents suggest that this cannot simply be learnt behaviour. Several projects discovered that the sons of alcoholics were three to four times more likely to become alcoholics than those of non-alcoholics — regardless of who raised them. Conversely, children of "normal" parents adopted into a family where alcohol was a problem did not themselves become alcoholics.

There is caution over the American findings because the sample tested was small. Nevertheless, the study is exciting and important, Dr Mullin says. "But it needs to be replicated in large groups and confirmed in families." He works both as a clinician treating alcoholics and as a research fellow in molecular biology at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, Paddington, studying large families with a high proportion of sufferers. "For instance, we know of one family where 25 out of 50 members are alcoholics."

Dr Mullin feels convinced that genes are responsible for much of the behaviour of such people. But he stresses that they cannot account for everything. "It is very, very unlikely to be one particular gene. It is more likely to be several and it will take us some time to sort them out. We have to get beyond the old nature-nurture arguments and accept that the problem is about a complex interaction of genes and environment."

The American research focused on abnormalities in the d2 dopamine receptor, a chemical messenger in the brain associated with pleasure. Dr Hugh Gurling, a member of the team studying molecular genetics and alcoholism at University College and Middlesex Hospital School of Medicine, says they now hope to test for abnormalities in a group of families on which they are working here and in Iceland (which has a high level of alcoholism).

He believes that eventually different types of alcoholism might be recognized. "There may be sub-types who have strong addictive tendencies, or

# Born and bred a drinker

who are prone to depression. There may be a biochemical base for the addictive personality, which would give us different ways of managing such people clinically."

There is a difficulty because there are disagreements over the definition of alcoholism. For example, the World Health Organization says that the term is too vague and wants it changed to alcohol dependence syndrome. At the extreme end of the scale, definitions are easy: most experts would agree with the characteristics outlined by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

These are: subjective awareness of the compulsion to drink, narrowing of the drinking repertoire, primacy of drinking over other activities, altered tolerance, repeated withdrawal symptoms, relief or avoidance of such symptoms by further drinking and reinstatement after abstinence (those who relapse soon find themselves back at the same level of consumption).

"The trouble is there is no absolute qualitative cut-off point between all the gradations — regular drinking, excessive drinking, problematic drinking, dependent drinking," says Derek Rutherford, director of the Institute of Alcohol Studies.

Between seven and eight million men and women in

Britain are estimated to be drinking more than the upper limits of sensible consumption — regarded as 14 units a week for women and 21 for men. Of these, about one million are thought to be alcohol dependent, with men outnumbering women three to one.

"About four times as many people have a problem than in the early Sixties," Mr Rutherford says. "Things have got worse, not because the genetic stock has changed in that time, but because alcohol has become far cheaper, more readily available and attitudes to it more liberal."

"The genetic issue may be significant for a limited number of people but the danger is it might divert attention from the social factors."

Dr Peter Anderson, former director of the Alcohol Research Centre in Oxford, agrees: "The more alcohol is available, the more it's consumed. The most conservative estimates now put the cost of abuse at around £2 billion a year. This is made up of factors like lost production, cost to the NHS, material damage and so on. Alcohol is also thought to contribute to 28,000 deaths a year and to play a part in such diseases as

strokes, heart problems and some cancers."

Finding a solution to the problem is further complicated by confusion over whether alcoholism is a disease arising from a pre-existing physical or psychological abnormality, or a behavioural phenomenon. The disease concept has been widely accepted in the United States, not least because the so-called "treatment industry" there is worth a billion dollars a year. In the United Kingdom, psychological explanations have usually held sway.

The World Health Organisation's view is that as part of its Health For All By The Year 2000 campaign we should aim to cut consumption by a quarter. The average UK intake is 9.7 litres of pure alcohol per adult per year. The WHO approach is shared by the Institute for Alcohol Studies. Mr Rutherford says: "Because so many of those seven or eight million drinkers are on the borderline, a cut in consumption will produce a very marked effect."

For hardened cases, however, the outlook is bleak — which makes the genetic findings of particular interest. If the mechanism which causes alcoholism could be discovered, it might be manipulated chemically.

Sometimes a problem with drink can seem simply a matter of chance, says Dr Colin Brewer, medical director of the Stapleford Centre, a private clinic treating patients with a combination of counselling, psychotherapy and drugs. He recalls one patient who scarcely touched a drop until he killed his own daughter in a freak car accident. "On the way back from the police station his friends persuaded him into the pub and gave him a great deal of brandy. He was instantly hooked because it gave him the oblivion he needed. Was that nature or nurture, or was it just bad luck?"



## Baby alarms

The sophistication of baby alarms is increasing. These days proud parents who come to dinner with their babies often carry a beeper in their pocket which broadcasts their child's every sound. Nobody opposes their use on any grounds except perhaps manners.

More controversial is the use of the apnoea alarm, which is triggered if the baby stops breathing. It ticks away happily until the breathing stops, and then sounds a loud alarm to summon the parents who, previously trained in resuscitation, will be able to restart their baby's respiration before permanent damage has been done. This week health visitors, through their magazine, warned parents of young children, particularly those parents who had previously experienced a cot death, that the use of an apnoea alarm is not the complete answer to preventing such a tragedy. In their view it is just as important, if not more so, to attend to the other factors in the care of vulnerable babies. A close association with the local GP is essential so that advice on diet, environment and any infections can be obtained at once.

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (cot deaths) shares some of these misgivings. Abrupt cessation of breathing is not the cause of sudden death in all babies who

die of acute respiratory disease; in some cases the baby may continue to breathe for a time, but the breathing may become increasingly ineffective. In these cases the apnoea alarm is not triggered. To overcome this disadvantage a new alarm has been designed which is sensitive to a fall in the oxygen content of the baby's blood, but the foundation feels its value must remain unproven until it has been subjected to extensive trials.

## Drawing blood

The courts in California have recently decreed that doctors must tell patients before surgery of the autologous transfusion — the collection and storage of a patient's own blood before surgery for transfusion after the operation, should it be necessary. The usual form of blood transfusion, with blood obtained from a donor, is technically known as homologous

transfusion. In Britain, although doctors are aware of the advantage of autologous transfusion, neither they nor their patients have pressed for it, whereas even in the more conservative medical centres on the east coast of the United States the use of a patient's own blood now accounts for 15 per cent of all transfusions; three years ago it was 1 per cent. As well as using blood laid down by a patient before surgery, surgeons have recently been making greater use of procedures which allow the reclaiming of blood spilled during the operation, particularly in orthopaedic or vascular surgery. A simple device, the Solcotrans system, allows this blood to be collected and transfused back into the patient. Modern transfusion techniques have removed many of the risks of donor transfusion. But quite apart from the emotional feeling that it is altogether nicer to have one's own blood, there are real advantages to autologous transfusion.

Infection can be transmitted by a blood transfusion: hepatitis B, hepatitis C, malaria, cytomegalovirus, syphilis and, of course, Aids have all been transmitted at some time or another. Rigorous testing in Britain, where a blood transfusion must be one of the safest in the world, has done everything possible to reduce any risk, which in consequence is very small. But even so, although blood is tested for HIV, the Aids virus, there is always the remote chance that a donor has given blood after

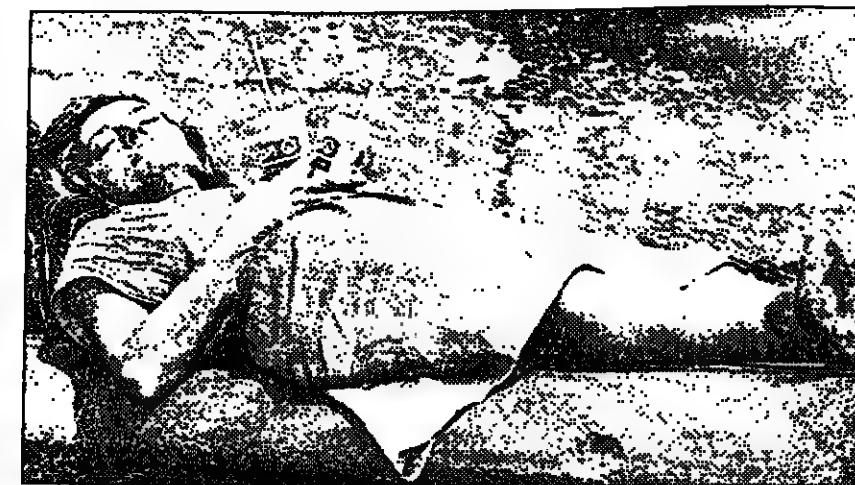
he or she became infected, and is therefore infectious, but before the blood registers a positive result to testing. This latent period can last for several weeks, or even months, which makes it worrying that recently a London transfusion service has noticed an increase in the number of cases of HIV-positive donors. Inevitably, if the pool of HIV-positive people in the community increases, blood transfusions will become correspondingly less desirable. Donor transfusion can influence the immune response of the patient, a finding which is of importance when the operation has been for cancer. For there is increasing evidence that in cancer surgery there is a slightly, but significantly, greater likelihood of developing a spread of the cancer, or its regrowth in the same area, if a donor transfusion has been needed. This risk is avoided if the patient's own blood is used. If blood is taken before surgery for use later, the very act of bleeding the patient stimulates their bone marrow, which is working in overdrive by the time the operation takes place, so that any blood loss is soon replaced and post-operative convalescence is shortened. However well autologous blood transfusion becomes established, it will only be suitable for planned surgery; the emergency services will still rely on donated blood, the need for which is as great as ever.

Transfusions hope, page 35

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

## Casting a shadow over the sun



Summer in the city: for some, lunch hour means working on their tan

DURING the winter office workers are exposed to just about as much ultraviolet light as a pit pony; it is dark when they go to work, they labour under artificial lights during the day, and it is dark when they return home, the only sunlight they receive is at weekends. This week the sun has brought these workers out in droves during their lunch hours, as they attempt to strengthen the tan they started at the weekend. They are convinced that a pallid skin is unattractive, and are prepared to disregard statistics which show the number of cases of skin cancer to have doubled in the past 10 years.

Statistics show that office workers who work under artificial light for 50 weeks of the year before basking in the sun for a fortnight during their holidays have replaced fishermen, farmworkers and others who are constantly exposed to the weather as the group most at risk from malignant change. Burning is more dangerous than tanning and is particularly likely to affect fair or red-headed people, who freckle easily, and who have more than four large or 20 small moles.

Despite the bad Press it has had recently ultraviolet light is not without its advantages: skin exposed to sunlight produces the vitamin D needed for healthy teeth and bones and general health. Fortunately, the traditional British diet is rich in Vitamin D, which compensates for the lack of sun, and our pale skins are tailor-made to absorb as much as is available, whereas the immigrants from India who have skin less suited for the absorption of sunlight also have a traditional diet which is deficient in vitamin D. This was immaterial in their home countries, where the ferocity of the sunlight would have compensated for any lack of the vitamin in the diet. Their culture, too,

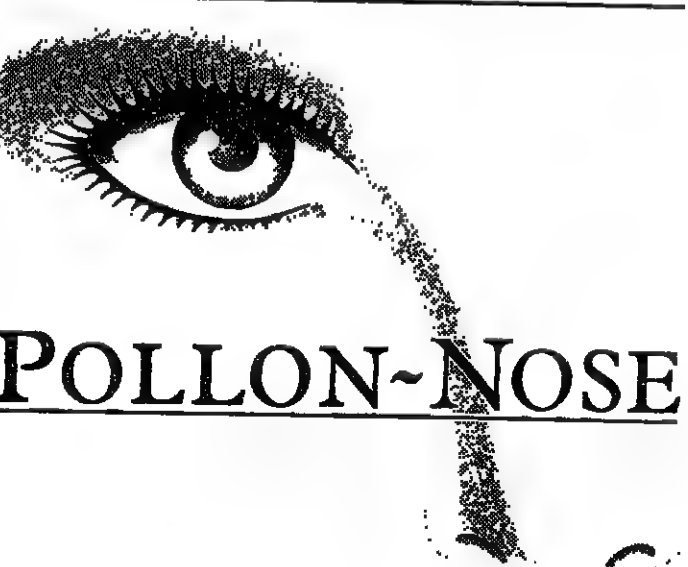
ensures that in Britain, when there is sun, neither the women nor the children are likely to receive as much of it as they might have done, for custom dictates that they spend a greater proportion of the day confined indoors, that their babies, who need vitamin D more than adults, are swaddled more closely than the indigenous British, and that their adults, who have a heightened sense of modesty, cover more of their bodies.

Ultraviolet light also has an antibacterial effect, and one which could be useful in the days before there were efficient antibiotics or even antiseptics. Under its influence acne improves, as the storehouses of the organisms which cause the secondary infection — such as the nose and the armpits — are cleansed by exposure to light. Contrary to popular belief, however, sunlight has no effect on dandruff. The sweating the

heat produces even encourages the growth of the yeasts and fungi which are contributory causes of dandruff and other fungoid skin conditions.

Sun produces a sense of well-being and eases depression, and the tan induces confidence as the result of a heightened sense of self-esteem, but if these advantages are to be enjoyed without hazards, precautions must be taken. Sun-tanning must be a gradual process, and even when a tan has been achieved the skin should still be protected by one of the many sun screens available. As the Australian campaign says: "Slip, Slap, Slap. Slip on a shirt, slap on a hat, slop on a sunscreen." As for the dandruff, Nizoral shampoo will not only clear the scalp but will also rid the body of those unsightly white patches which deface the most expensive suntan, as they betray the presence of skin fungi.

## POLLON-EYES



## POLLON-NOSE



## POLLON-EZE

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## Why the rat race can be good for you

New US research suggests that the secret of a long life and healthy retirement is to stay slogging away at the daily grind.

Do not abandon the rat race. The latest word from the US National Institute on Ageing — which has a multibillion dollar budget to study the politics, psychology and physiology of a rapidly expanding ageing population — is that rats who stay in the rat race live up to 50 per cent longer than those who opt out in favour of a gluttonous, sedentary retirement. And the institute believes that many of its recent studies of rats can be applied to human beings.

"Much of the previous research involving rats and mice had shown a steady decline in older ones as compared with young ones — and we accepted that as the norm," says Dr Frank Williams, the institute's spy, fit, 68-year-old director. "But the rats had been unstimulated and allowed to eat a lot, gain weight, and become indolent as they grew older. Now that studies include rats on active programmes with plenty of exercise, the rats show far fewer effects of ageing, and live 50 per cent longer. The message seems to be that rats in the rat race last longer, and that people who stay involved — not necessarily in the rat race, but in the human race — will last longer."

In Britain the Prudential Assurance Association runs courses to prepare people for a retirement period that could now — with life expectancy for women considered to be 82, and for men 76 — take up nearly a third of their lives. "We recognize the im-

portance of keeping active," a spokeswoman says. "We tell them not to regard retirement as an end, but as an opportunity and a challenge, and even offer special courses for high-flying executives who will find it very difficult to let go, to tell them about consultancy opportunities."

Speaking in his office at the National Institutes of Health in Maryland, with joggers of all ages and shapes panting past the windows, Dr Williams says: "There is strong research evidence that it's never too late to adopt an active policy. One of the most recent studies is on 90-year-olds starting on a programme

of muscle-strengthening exercises, and it's amazing what a difference they made." He agrees, of course, that any 90-year-olds fit and keen enough to participate in such an experiment were probably pretty well-tuned in the first place.

Americans are living longer, but fewer than 55 per cent of men aged 60-64 are now in the workforce (compared with 78

per cent 20 years ago), despite mandatory retirement being virtually eliminated. So the problem of how to maintain stimulation during increasingly long retirement periods deserves more research, Dr Williams says.

"We need to give more thought to opportunities and encouragement for people to keep working part-time into very late years — although people may want to change their working choices," he says. The United States now has 29 million people over the age of 65, compared with 17 million 25 years ago, so ageing research has a high priority, which explains the apparently

limitless funds available to the National Institute on Ageing. Further rat experiments funded by the institute have led to new clues on how ageing affects brain functioning — and why this process is not the same for everybody. The results encourage us to indicate that the brain need not be subject to an inevitable decline, and that memory lapses and other infirmities associated with age are not a necessary part of the ageing process. It was also noticed that newborn rats which had been regularly handled compared favourably with much younger rats in selected performance tests.

In the brain, the hippocampus — the part involved in memory and learning — seems particularly vulnerable to the

contented individuals. "Most of our body organs can maintain their function almost indefinitely," Dr Williams says. "There is no arbitrary cut-off point. So when something deviates from that norm, it should be a cause for study."

Does all this mean that eternal youthfulness is, at last, within our grasp — and that if we keep mentally and physically active and cuddle our offspring, the age-old human race against time could be won? "I'm not sure whether the goal should be youthfulness," Dr Williams admonishes. "That's an expression of prejudice. How about a healthy, productive, long life?"

Victoria McKee



Rodent power: active rats live longer

## Question: What did the following people all have in common?

The Duke & Duchess of Windsor  
Pope Pius XII  
Gloria Swanson  
Charles de Gaulle  
Marlene Dietrich  
Cary Grant  
Charlie Chaplin

Answer: They all impressed the world with their longevity and their mental and physical vitality.

They also had something else in common: they had all during their lives received a natural, non-toxic biological treatment in Switzerland. Not has been available in the UK for the past 25 years. You can find out how to achieve optimum improvement to your health and appearance by sending in the enclosed coupon today.

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## PREVIEW

TODAY Opera, Dance & Books • FRIDAY Classical Music • MONDAY Art & Auctions • TUESDAY Theatre & Cabaret • WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz & World Music

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

## OPERA

Barry Millington

**LONDON**  
**LA CENERENTOLA:** Fans of Agnes Baltsa may find something to enjoy in Michael Hammer's Salzburg Festival production of Rossini's Cinderella story. Alison Browner takes over on Tuesday. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (01-240 1066). Tonight, Sat, 8pm, Tues, 7.30pm, £25-£282.

**THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO:** Popular production of Mozart's masterpiece returns to the ENO under the baton of Michael Lloyd, recently appointed Assistant to the Music Director. English National Opera, Covent Garden, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-836 3161). Tonight, Sat, 7pm, £3-£33.

**MACBETH:** Another ENO Verdi production to make the sparks fly. Jonathan Summers and Kristine Ciesinski are the couple steeped in the notorious green blood. ENO (as above). Tomorrow, 7.30pm, £3-£33.

**IL TRUOTATORE (Verdi):** Piero Faggoni's production previously got the critical thumbs down, but returns with a strong cast, including Vanessa Leiferkus, Stebeliano and Randova ROH (as above). Mon, 7.30pm, £25-£282.

**NATIONAL OPERA STUDIO**  
**SHOWCASE:** Two staged performances of operatic excerpts given by budding talents. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (01-782 8800). Sat, Sun, 7pm, £4-£10.

**MERRY WIDOW (Léhar):** Slightly stiff Opera 80 production, but stylishly sung. Theatre Royal, Brighton (0273 28488). Tonight, Sat, 7.30pm, £4.50-£12.50. Arts Theatre, Cambridge (0223 352000). Tues, 7.30pm, £8-£14.

**L'HEURE ESPAGNOLE/CIANNI SCHICCHI:** Ravel/Puccini double bill, with Andrew Shore outstanding in the latter. David Lloyd-Jones conducts. Opera North, Palace Theatre, Manchester (061 238 8822). Tonight, 7.15pm, £4-£21.

**LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR:** Bunny Christie's simple but effective designs form an atmospheric backdrop for Donizetti's treatment of Scott. Opera 80, Theatre Royal (as above). Tomorrow, 7.30pm, £4.50-£12.50. Arts Theatre (as above). Wed, 7.30pm, £8-£14.

**ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE (Gluck):** Highly commended conducting by Olive Times, with Sally Burgess and Ilana Lesca-McKenzie in the title roles. Royal National, Palace Theatre (as above). Tomorrow, 7.15pm, £4-£21.

**BEATRICE AND BENEDICT (Berlioz):** Entertaining student venture under the baton of Alexander Platt. Cambridge University Opera Society, University Music School, West Road, Cambridge (0223 352000). Tomorrow, 7.30pm, £5-£8.

**THE MAGIC FLUTE (Mozart):** Charles Ferncombe conducts the London Opera Players. St. John's Church, Lantieri Crossenry (060 885 287). Tomorrow, 7.45pm, £7-£10.

## DANCE

John Percival

**TURNING WORLD:** International dance season. Hervé Jourd'et from France offers his new *Dance Marguerite* (tonight); Australian Shelley Lesica in her solo *Nova* with American Ruth Barnes in *Hiromi*, a new treatment of the Orpheus myth, plus Spanish Maria Antonia Oliva (tomorrow) and Dutch Angelika Oen (Sat). Joachim Schomer

## Getting the mix right

BRUNNEN/JOHNSON



New definitions and assessments are happening in the world of mime. The form is changing and gathering interest and strength, and the medium of this change is multi-skilled performance. New young artists are emerging with a mix of mime, magic, circus and physical theatre, aiming to break through the stereotyping and transparency which characterize much of mime and to reinvigorate it. This is really the way it is! It certainly seems to be so in Europe, and one example of this eclectic European imagination can be seen on Saturday (7.30pm) during the Seventh Northern International Festival of Mime, Dance and Visual Theatre. Carmello (pronounced here) presents its prize-winning show, *Il Chierchio Magico*. Based in Paris, this Sicilian-born mime mixes slapstick, clowning and physical comedy with magic tricks, muddling the usual persona of a clown with that of a conjuror. His most recent prize is the Critics Award of the Mimos 89 International Mime Festival. He trained as an actor and mime with the Theatre of Movement, Yves Lebreton and Etienne Decroux, complementing this by learning how to conjure. Described as having "the charm of Buster Keaton" his hypnotic, poetic delivery and comic magic offer a gentle dream-like transformation of the everyday into the extraordinary. Other highlights of the festival this week include Theatre de Complicité's *My Army Part II* (tonight, 7.30pm); Glory What Glory (tonight, 9.30pm); The Right Size company (tomorrow, 8pm) and Trestle Theatre Company (Sun, 8pm). The Brewery, Highgate, Hendon, Cumbria (Information: 0539 725133)

from Germany is here with his new company (Mon, Tues). The Place, Dore's Road, WC1 (01-387 0031), 8pm, £5.

**SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET:** MacMillan's *Macmillan's Macmillan* and *Macmillan's Macmillan*, with Graham Lough's *Macmillan's Macmillan* and the *Macmillan's Macmillan* show place duet (tonight). *Macmillan's Macmillan* and *Macmillan's Macmillan* show place duet (tonight). Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (01-778 8916). 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, £4-£22.50.

**ONEING:** English National Ballet in John Cranko's romantic masterpiece. Alhambra, Bradford (0274 75200). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, £7-£21.

**GREEN ROOM:** Maria Munoz and Pep Ramis from Spain dance *Quarere* (tonight), the Chomondaleys in *Flesh and Blood* (Fri, Sat). Green Room, Whitworth Street West, Manchester (061-2361077). 8pm, £4.50, £4.30.

**MAY BALL:** Dance season at Brentford. Engle Fargue's company from France (tonight), Indian dance from Vaid Subbar (Sat). Waterman Arts Centre, Brentford, Middlesex (081-568 5651). 8pm, £5, £5.95.

**MAYBEIT:** A British premiere, *Save Our Souls*, by Compagnie Cric-Auge opens the dance season (tomorrow). Hervé Jourd'et's *Dance Marguerite* (Sat) and Ralph Lemon from USA (Wed).

Mitchell Theatre, Granville Street, Glasgow (041 275511). 7pm, £5.

**ROMEO AND JULIET:** English National Ballet in Ashton's poetic staging of the Prokofiev work. Mayflower, Southampton (0703 229771). Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, £5-£18.50, mat Wed, 2.30pm, £4-£8.50.

**LA FILLE MAL GARDEE:** Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet in Ashton's comedy. Congress Theatre, Eastbourne (0323 412000). Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, £5-£17.50, mat Tues, 2pm, £5-£8.

**TRANSITIONS:** Young dancers from Laban Centre's advanced course in works by several choreographers. Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon Street, WC1 (01-385 5976). Tues, Wed, 7.30pm, £5.

**ROYAL BALLET:** Sylvie Guillem and Laurent Hlari in Robbins's *Other Dances*, with MacMillan's *Glories*, *Macmillan's Macmillan* and *Macmillan's Macmillan*. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (01-240 1088). Wed, 7.30pm, £1-£21.

**PERFORMANCE ART**  
 Ghislaine Boddington

**TEST 7:** The Seventh National Events Week organised by the students of Humber College of Higher Education. Videos, lectures, performances, workshops and films

Involving a wide and interesting range of artists. Humber College of Higher Education, Queen's Gardens, Hull (Info: 0482 44050 ext 2115). Today until Sat.

**ANNIE GRIFFIN:** *Glories* presents *Annie*. The late 1980s obsession with classical Greek myths continues with the opera *Glories* presents *Annie*. South Hill Park, Blackpool (0344 484123). Tonight-Sat, 8pm, £5 (£4.50 concs).

**JACOB MARLEY AND STEPHEN-TAYLOR WOODROW:** *The Second String*. A collaboration between performance artist and sculptor. An excellent new work. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 3847). Tonight until May 19. Mon-Sat, 8pm, £5 (£5 concs), plus £1 day membership.

**BRUCE MCLEAN:** *Vertical Balcany*. A performance piece presented alongside an exhibition of his new sculptures. Performed by Sue Hawley, a member of Rambert Dance Company. Amfrit, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol (0272 220181). Fri, 8pm, £3 (£2 concs).

**FRAN COTTELL:** *Double Interior*. A gallery space transformed into the interior of a garment. Cotrell explores the relationship between body space and buildings. Greenwich Citizens Gallery, 15 Powis Street, London SE18 (081-316 2752). Tomorrow until May 14. Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm, free.

**GARY STEVENS:** *Animal*. In a sea of soft toys this strong grouping of performers give us a madcap theatre/sculpture piece - what it is to be human or animal. British Art Show 1990, The Dome Theatre, Charing Cross, London WC2 (0332 625358). Sat, Sun, 7.30pm, £2 (£1 concs).

**GLORY WHAT GLORY:** *Inertia Real*. Experimental text and physical theatre lacking real belief in itself. Third Eye Centre, 346-354 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (041-3320522). Tues, Wed, 7.30pm, £5 (£2.50 concs).

**GRAEME MILLER:** *A Girl Slipping*. A kaleidoscope of physical theatre and images with a new and intimate children's game. Dynamic work. The Green Room, 54-56 Whitworth Street, West Manchester (061 2361677). Tues, until May 10, 8pm, £4.30 (£2.80 concs).

## READINGS

Cris Check

**RIAN MALAN:** A blood relative of D.J. Wilson, Wilson's new book *My Father's House* is an exploration of the horror that lies at the core of a society gone savagely wrong, reads extracts from the book and talks with Radio 4.

**WOMAN'S HOUR** presenter Jean Mills (tonight, 7.30pm). Ena Chamberlain and Brian Stanger read from her autobiography *20 Years On* which details the world of a south-west London working class community with the acute eye of a child. A discussion about recording the histories of ordinary people and reading from the Bristol Broadside group will follow (Sat).

**CHRISTOPHER RANSMAIR:** Foremost Australian writer who will read from his meticulously researched, *The Last Word*. Waterstones, 193 Kensington High Street, London W8 (071-251 0883). Mary Emma Baxter, Tues, 7pm, free.

Watershed Media Centre, 1 Canons Road, Bristol (0272 271 444). Tonight, 7.30pm, Sat, 2.30pm, £3 (£2 concs).

**ADRIAN HENRI:** Well-loved greying Sixties pop darling, painter and poet, reads from his new collection *Wish You Were Here*. Beeston Library, Foster Avenue, Beeston, Nottinghamshire (0522 255168). Tonight, 7.30pm, £2.50, £1.50 concs.

**VOICE BOX - ANGELS OF FIRE:** A loose grouping of poets who propose the enrichment of a global secular spirituality through an expression of the connections between personal and environmental awareness. Voice Box, Festival Hall, South Bank SE1 (01-732 8800). Tomorrow, 7.30pm, £2.50, £1.50.

**JIM BURNS, FLEUR ADCOCK AND CAROL ANN DUFFY:** A celebration of the praeformative *Ambl* magazine's thirtieth year. These three regular contributors are each strong and respected poets. Voice Box (as above). Tues, 7.30pm, £2.50, £1.50.

**TRACKERS IN ATHENS, DELPHI AND LONDON:** A talk given by Oliver Taplin who travelled with the company for the one-performance world premiere of *The Trackers of Orythmichus* in Delphi. Royal National Theatre (Oliver), Southbank, London SE1 (01-928 2252). Tomorrow, 6pm, £2.50.

**BRIGHTON LINES:** Late-night sessions of work, debate and experiment. *Serpent's Tail*, the winner of the 1989 Sunday Times "Small Publisher of the Year" Award, presents Lynne Timman and Colin Tobin reading from their work (Fri). And David Ross with Suzanne Dunn both reading from their fiction. Dunn is author of *Darker Days Than Usual* (Sat). Also Eric Saltzman and Jennie Fontana, two emerging poets producing very different styles of work and fast gaining a strong reputation (Sun).

**DOUGLAS DUNN:** A reading in conjunction with an exhibition of portraits of contemporary poets by Peter Edwards. National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Street, London WC2 (01-330 1552). Sat, 3pm, free.

**DANNIE ABSE:** His new book of poems *Remembrance of Things Past* forms the basis for the appearance by a popular and frequently heard member of the poetry establishment. Torquay Meeting House, 98 Torquay Avenue, London NW5 (01-287 2751). Sun, 7.30pm, free.

**CHRISTOPHER RANSMAIR:** Foremost Australian writer who will read from his meticulously researched, *The Last Word*. Waterstones, 193 Kensington High Street, London W8 (071-251 0883). Mary Emma Baxter, Tues, 7pm, free.

Compiled by Kari Knight

Items for inclusion should be sent at least 10 days before publication to Preview, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 8NN

## BEST SELLING BOOKS

For the week ending 28 April 1990

FICTION		
1	Golden Fox, Wilbur Smith	MacMillan £14.99
2	Thomas Regained, John Mortimer	Viking £13.99
3	Line of Silence, Brian Moore	Bloomsbury £12.99
4	A Suitable Life, Mary Wesley	Bantam £12.95
5	Bourne Ultimatum, Robert Ludlum	Grafton £12.95
NON-FICTION		
1	Barbarians at the Gate, Burrough & Halyar	Cape £15.95
2	Michael 1989, Frances	Mechon £10.50
3	Oxford Book of Humorous Prose, Frank May	Clarendon £9.95
4	On My Way to the Club, Ludovic Kennedy	Fontana £4.99
5	Winston & Clementine, Richard Hough	Bantam £16.95
PAPERBACKS		
1	Devices & Desires, P.D. James	Faber £ 6.99
2	A Year in Provence, Peter Mayle	Pen £ 4.99
3	The Fortune, Michael Korda	Pen £ 4.50
4	House of Cards, Michael Dobbs	Fontana £ 3.50
5	Spy Shadow, Tim Sebastian	Bantam £ 3.99
6	The Endgame, Ruth Rendell	Arrow £ 3.50
7	On My Way to the Club, Ludovic Kennedy	Fontana £ 4.99
8	Winston & Clementine, Richard Hough	Penguin £ 7.50
9	Time Out Guide to London	Penguin £ 16.99
10	Historic Houses, Sheila Alcock	British Leisure £ 4.95

Source: Hachards, 187 Piccadilly, London W1

## CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's selection of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol £) on release across the country.

## NEW RELEASES

**COLD FEET (15):** Weyward comedy-drama about three petty criminals in Montana, co-written by novelist Tom McGuane with Tom Wells, Keith Carradine. Screenplay by David Mamet. Directed by Robert Altman. ICA Cinema (01-930 3647).

**THE KRAVYS (18):** Blood-drenched, bloody drama about the rise and fall of the East End gangster, from war-time childhood to incarceration in separate prisons. Peter Medak directs an imaginatively conceived story. City and Martin Kemp. Bile Whitaker. Cannon Cinema (01-352 5355). Odeons: Kensington (01-832 8445) & Deeside: Croydon (01-722 5905) West End (01-930 3202/01-722 5905).

**MONSIEUR HIRE (15):** Intense, stylish version of Samson novel about a boy's dark obsession with his neighbour, a young aristocrat by the name of Pierre Leconte, previously known for comedies. With Nicholas Braine and Sandra Berman. Lumiere (01-836 0931).

**NEXT OF KIN (15):** A Kentucky cash fight, partly based on John F. Kennedy's fight with Lee Harvey Oswald. Directed by Clint Eastwood. Odeons: Chichester (01-242 0314) & Deeside: Croydon (01-722 5905) West End (01-930 3202/01-722 5905).

**MACGARE AND MRS MILLER (15):** Revival of Robert Altman's moody Western of a gambler (Warren Beatty) who falls in love with a young woman. With Julie Christie. Camden Place (01-485 2445).

**MY LEFT FOOT (15):** The Chet Brown story, uplifting, raw, marvellously acted, from the novel by David Copperfield and Brenda Fricker. Odeons: Kensington (01-832 8445) & Deeside: Croydon (01-722 5905) West End (01-930 3202/01-722 5905).

**MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON (15):** Bob Rastetter's vividly acted story about a young man's search for his father. Patrick Bergin, Ian Glen. Odeons: Leicester Square (01-930 3111) & Deeside: Croydon (01-722 5905).

**ALWAYS (15):** Spielberg's phish phish comedy about a boy who falls in love with a girl who is a girl. With Ricki Lake. Odeons: Leicester Square (01-930 3111) & Deeside: Croydon (01-722 5905).

**ILL AND TENDS EXCELLENT ADVENTURE (15):** A comedy about a boy who falls in love with a girl who is a girl. With Ricki Lake. Odeons: Leicester Square (01-930 3111) & Deeside: Croydon (01-722 5905).

**BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY (15):** Dyanne and Vietnam epic from Oliver Stone, with Tom Cruise excellent in the lead. Odeons: Leicester Square (01-930 3111) & Deeside: Croydon (01-722 5905).

**CELESTIAL (15):** Powerful Australian portrait of a rebellious child in a restrictive society. Starring child by director Alan Parker. Cannon (01-437 0157) & Deeside: Croydon (01-722 5905).

**CINEMA PARADISO (15):** Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian cinema, a highly appealing tribute to the cinema. Odeons: Leicester Square (01-930 3111) & Deeside: Croydon (01-722 5905).

**DEAD POETS SOCIETY (15):** A comedy about a boy who falls in love with a girl who is a girl. With Ricki Lake. Odeons: Leicester Square (01-930 3111) & Deeside: Croydon (01-722 5905).

**ENEMIES, A LOVE STORY (15):** A comedy about a boy who falls in love with a girl who is a girl. With Ricki Lake. Odeons: Leicester Square (01-930 3111) & Deeside: Croydon (01-722 5905).

**THE FABULOUS BAKER BOYS (15):** A comedy about a boy who falls in love with a girl who is a girl. With Ricki Lake. Odeons: Leicester Square (01-930 3111) & Deeside: Croydon (01-722 5905).

**HENRY V (15):** A comedy about a boy who falls in love with a girl who is a girl. With Ricki Lake. Odeons: Leicester Square (01-930 3111) & Deeside: Croydon (01-722 5905).

**THE WAR OF THE ROSES (15):** A comedy about a boy who falls in love with a girl who is a girl. With Ricki Lake. Odeons: Leicester Square (01-930 3111) & Deeside: Croydon (01-722 5905).

**THE WARRIOR (15):** A comedy about a boy who falls in love with a girl who is a girl. With Ricki Lake. Odeons: Leicester Square (01-930 3111) & Deeside: Croydon (01-722 5905).

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## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2168

Answers from page 22

- ACROSS
- Moving (6)
  - Put in (6)
  - Mouth abcess (7)
  - Change (5)
  - Wreck (4)
  - Paris artist quarter (4,4)
  - Judge Jeffery's merciless hearings (10)
  - Pining (8)
  - Wallop (4)
  - Implied (5)
  - Harshly loud (7)
  - Wanders (6)
  - Haits (6)
- DOWN
- NW Africa (7)
  - Italian child (7)
  - Coil (4)
  - Famously favouritism (8)
  - Heather (3)
  - Nip (3)
  - RN flying branch (5,3,3)
  - Great reverence (8)
  - Fanatical (7)
  - Splitter groups (7)
  - Dreamer's fruit (5)
  - Stipendiary priest (5)
  - Heal (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 2167

ACROSS: 1 Move 3 Lucky 8 Milksp 10 Crepe 11 Garb 12 Atom 13 Leaf 15 Scarlet O'Hara 17 Rub 19 Troy 20 Kist 23 Bingo 24 Rabin 25 Terms 26 Herc

DOWN: 1 Maloria 2 Vast 4 Uncommon 5 Knell 6 Smug 7 Merca 9 Petit 10 14 Palmar 15 26 16 Amiable 18 Binge 21 King 22 Free

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

**TRISUL** (c) A three-pointed figure, used as a Buddhist emblem, from the Sanskrit *tri*, three, + *sula*, a spit. The trisul or trident emblem which crowns the gateways may represent Buddha himself.

**KILPAD** (b) The Cape blyth, from the Afrikaans *klip* rock + *pad* path. "Basking themselves may generally be seen several of the Kilpads, Cape, Rock Rabbit, or Cape Hyrax."

**HART DUCHA** (c) Self-mastery in the face of internal and external forces. Polish for "hard spirit", one who does not cry or compromise in the face of attacks on his rights or independence, as exemplified recently by Lech Walesa and Solidarity.

**SIMA** (b) The continuous basal layer of the earth's crust, composed of relatively heavy, basic rocks, rich in silica and magnesium. "If America were plunging through the sima westwards..."

**WINNING MOVE**

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Werner (White) - Webster (Black), Ockham Junior International 1990. Black has just played his rock from b1 to h1. Is this a winning move? Solution in tomorrow's Times.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 N4d1 traps the Black queen. After 1... Nxe4 2 Qd3 Qb4 3 Qxe4 White has won a piece.

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**STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY**



## Sterling needed little support

By Colin Narborough  
Economics Correspondent  
THE pound appears to have needed only modest help from the Bank of England last month, despite poll tax troubles, gathering gloom about the economy and the markets' conviction that sterling was extremely vulnerable.

Official reserves of gold and currency — regarded as the best guide to intervention in the currency markets — showed a fall of \$98 million, compared with a \$429 million drop in March. The April figure was in line with City forecasts.

Intervention last month was prompted at the start by a negative response abroad to riots against the poll tax and, at the end, by a disappointing set of trade figures.

Sterling advanced again yesterday, with no sign of any nervous sell-off before today's local elections, in which the Conservatives are expected to suffer heavy losses.

On its trade-weighted index, sterling closed at 87.1, or 0.2 of a point ahead of the previous close, holding on to the early gains. In the money market, the key three-month interbank lending rate eased slightly.

Britain's high interest rates were seen to be providing adequate underpinning for the pound, although some foreign exchange dealers attributed the pound's rise to the unwinding of long positions in yen and marks.

The financial markets have become increasingly focused on next week's retail prices data, which are expected to show the annual inflation rate surging above 9 per cent.

Final money supply figures showed M0 — the narrow money supply measure still targeted by the Government — growing at an annual rate of 6.3 per cent in March, confirming provisional data.

The Bundesbank's policy-setting council is expected to leave West German key lending rates unchanged when it meets in Frankfurt today.

## The message for Royal is defence

CHARLES Winter, chief executive of the Royal Bank of Scotland, is a perplexed man. In the past, he has announced sparkling figures only to see the bank's shares slide. Yesterday, as he admitted to a 7 per cent slide in earnings per share to 13.9p, the market responded by adding 10p to the price.

After the poll cast over the sector by Midland Bank's warning last week, investors were merely relieved that Royal's news was not as bad as feared. Thanks to an exceptional £10.8 million write-back from Third World debt sales, pre-tax profits even rose 2 per cent to £173.6 million.

Behind that, however, Royal showed all the symptoms of a bank coping with a difficult market. Profits at the main bank fell 3 per cent to £138 million, despite a 12 per cent rise in the group's income.

The 15 per cent climb in costs to £376 million pushed the cost/income ratio to 65.4 per cent, 2 per cent higher than a year ago.

Charterhouse, the merchant bank, saw profits slide 19 per cent to £21.1 million due to increased provision, particularly on its portfolio of management buyouts. Charterhouse is also suffering from the downturn in profitable merger and acquisition work.

The group's restatement of its highly-leveraged transaction exposure from £750 million to £295 million smacks of goalpost transportation, no matter how hard it pleads its case.

In any case, the acid test of Royal's loan book will be the level of its specific bad debt provisions in the next two years. This time, they rose 63 per cent to £47.1 million, out of total provisions of £57.8 million. Even this may be too low, since the charge is still 0.25 per cent of total lending, the same as last September despite the worsening economic scene.

While Royal's European adventure remains an entertaining sideshow, the message at home looks to be defence. Full-year profits are likely to fall at least £10 million short of last year's £336 million before LDC provisions.

At that level, the shares have a p/e ratio of 6, with a 6.6 per cent yield on the probable 8.4p dividend. Remaining bank fans can find better value elsewhere in the sector.



Hallmarks of a financial wizard: Julian Ogilvie Thompson, of De Beers, yesterday

De Beers' other party line is that Centenary and itself will be "stapled" and only tradeable as one linked unit. However, it seems unlikely that this will always be the case, and betting books are now open as to how long before the cord is cut.

### De Beers

DE BEERS' master plan in setting up a Swiss company — De Beers Centenary, which has all the hallmarks of its financial wizard, Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson — looks just like a prologue to a play with many acts.

The official line is that Centenary can now be identified as the non-South African twin sister from the same family, and therefore not deserving of the South African political discount factor.

That its birth will mean

greater, and easier, business opportunities can be seized. And that it will facilitate access to international capital markets — not that De Beers, which has a borrowing capacity of R11.7 billion (\$4.57 billion), looks like being in need of trotting the begging bowl round Europe.

The world-wide investment audience has already given De Beers a warm round of applause, and the share price has risen by 20 per cent since the March announcement. At a time of considerable political uncertainty in South Africa, any move which gives a SA-based company a "foreign" element is a welcome aspirin for investors who cannot sleep at night worrying about nationalization.

With the shares up 4 1/2p at 276p on the results, that would mean a prospective p/e ratio of 9, which is reasonable. However, the shares have fallen 38p from their recent peak in February, before Tate announced it might bid for British Sugar's ailing parent, Berisford. British Sugar might be worth nearer £800 million to Tate rather than the £478 million it offered last time, but shareholders must insist that Mr Shaw's industrial logic does not tempt him to stumble into one of Berisford's numerous black holes.

### Tate & Lyle

TATE & Lyle has been transformed since its last bid for British Sugar four years ago.

The acquisition of Staley, Amstar and the minority in its Canadian business, Redpath, has made it the largest sugar refiner in the US, with more than a fifth of the market, as well as making it a leader in starches and corn sweeteners.

Shareholders have not had to pay dearly for the grand ambitions of Mr Neil Shaw, the chairman who has piloted Tate through the stormy bids that have given the group its new shape. Earnings per share have grown by over 20 per cent a year since 1986 and the progress continued in the six months to March, when a 25 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £87.5 million fed through to a 30 per cent increase in fully diluted earnings to 11.7p.

It was an eventful half year, in which Tate raised more than £230 million from the disposal of its bulk storage, milling and remaining vehicle component businesses, as well as three subsidiaries from Staley. These sales cut net debt to £591 million on a pro-forma basis, reducing gearing to 107 per cent from the uncomfortable 159 per cent at which it had stood last September.

The main factor behind the increased profits was a \$30 million improvement at Staley, which had started 1988-89 badly.

Now Tate says that the disposal programme is complete, though Mr Shaw also warns that most of the growth likely in the current year has already come through in the first half. Analysts now anticipate profits of £220 million for the year to September and fully diluted earnings of roughly 30p.

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As the moment nears when the unstapling looks like happening, the excitement will grow. Meanwhile, De Beers at £13.70 on a prospective p/e of 5.6 and a prospective 6 per cent yield remains a steal.

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Agreed £15m bid for communications firm

THE shares of Continental Microwave (Holdings), the USM communications equipment manufacturer, jumped by 85p to 230p after Pharos Holdings, a subsidiary of Pharos, the Swedish high-technology manufacturing company, made a recommended cash offer worth £15.8 million for the group. Continental shareholders will be offered 230p in cash for each ordinary share, a 59 per cent premium, and 112p for each Continental convertible share.

Continental's directors and certain members of their families, who together held 26.7 per cent of the shares, have undertaken to accept.

### Fatter order book for TI

AT his first annual meeting as chairman of the TI Group, Mr Christopher Lewinton said that first-quarter results were in line with the corporate plan. "Our order books are generally up on this time last year," he said. There was cash in the bank, and he forecast continued good progress in 1990.

### Linread price hit by losses

SHARES in Linread fell 5p to 128p after Mr Peter Tahany, the chairman, told the annual meeting that the group's commercial products division had lapsed into losses in the first quarter, and that group profits would be static in the first six months. Short-term measures have been taken to curtail the losses.

### Jurys buys Stakis hotel

JURYS Hotel Group, the Irish hotel chain, is buying the Ponds Hotel in Glasgow from Stakis for £10.5 million. The acquisition will be partially financed by a one-for-four rights issue to raise IR£5.7 million (£4.5 million) after expenses. Mr Peter Malone, managing director, said the purchase of the 130-bedroom hotel, with its own leisure club, "is in line with the board's objective of expanding outside Ireland." The directors of Jurys say that pre-tax profits in the year to April will be not less than IR£3 million (£2.27 million). They will be recommending a dividend of IR3p to make a total of IR5p (IR4.5p).

### Europa issues maiden of 1p

EUROPA Minerals Group, the British-based mining finance house, is paying a maiden dividend of 1p after net profits of £2.41 million for the year to end-January. Previous results are not comparable. The group expanded by selective acquisitions in coal, oil and gas, and gold.

### Margree joins ISE division

THE International Stock Exchange has appointed Mr Rod Margree as managing director of its Settlement Services Division. Mr Margree, a corporate director of the financial institutions unit of Barclays Bank, will join the exchange for three years on a full-time secondment.

### BLP dividend down

BLP Group, the real wood laminates maker which dismissed its chairman in February after allegations of "serious breaches of his service contract," lifted pre-tax profits from £1.91 million to £2.1 million in the year to end-December. However, as forecast, the final dividend is cut from 2.35p to 0.5p, making 2p (3.6p) for the year.

Turnover jumped from £17.7 million to £48 million, but earnings per share fell from 8.50p to 3.81p, due to an increased number of shares in issue following acquisitions.

## American General seeks a buyer after \$6.4bn offer

From John Durie, New York

AMERICAN General, the besieged US insurance group, has put itself on the auction block after facing strong institutional pressure in the wake of a hostile \$6.4 billion takeover bid by Torchmark, the smaller insurance company.

Mr Harold Hook, the chairman of American General, told the group's annual meeting yesterday that he had hired First Boston, the bank, to seek buyers for the company.

American General, which is

listed on the London Stock Exchange, is the eighth largest American insurance group, with assets of \$32 billion. The company has ranked poorly in terms of returns on capital and equity.

In March, Torchmark, the tenth largest insurance group in the US, launched its takeover bid, but withdrew its offer after American General failed to respond. Instead of the bid, Torchmark started a proxy fight to defeat the American General board. On

the eve of the American General meeting, Torchmark was in a strong position to win the battle, with five of the top eight institutional investors backing its claim and another three supporting its argument that American General should put itself up for sale.

The combination of a takeover bid followed by a proxy fight is the latest trend in takeovers in the US. The device was used by BTR in its unsuccessful takeover bid for Norton last month.

### Growth in building forecast

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S construction industry should see better business at home next year and growing opportunities in both western and eastern Europe.

The forecast came from Mr Michael Spicer, Construction Minister, who said he was optimistic despite a number of trade surveys which had suggested a slowdown.

Although new orders had fallen from their peak they were still at historically high levels, he said, and there would be an increase in growth next year.

His argument for growth rested largely on the infrastructure spending which is being committed.

He expected Government capital spending on construction to grow by 22 per cent by 1991. And construction work for the water and electricity industries after privatization should have a "significant" impact throughout the present decade, he said.

Also, Eastern Europe would shortly need reconstructing. "The British construction industry would be well advised to investigate commercial possibilities in Europe, particularly in countries where the German connection is weakest," he said.

### Society suspends merger row chief

By Lindsay Cook, Family Money Editor

THE Frome Selwood Building Society, which is at the centre of the first contested building society merger, has suspended Mr Jim Marshall, its chief executive.

The 14,600 members of the £47 million Frome are to vote on May 17 on whether it should merge with the Stroud & Swindon Building Society.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society has offered both investors and borrowers better terms, but these were turned down by the Frome board.

A protest group — the Campaign Against the Stroud Merger — has called for a vote of no confidence in the board to be taken at the special general meeting if the members vote against the Stroud merger.

The requisition, supported by more than 50 signatures, was turned down by the Frome on the grounds that it was outside its rules. The group has now called for an independent audit of the Frome.

Mr Richard Payne, chief executive of the Stroud & Swindon said yesterday: "There is no question whatsoever of financial impropriety or risk to funds." He refused to comment

further on the suspension, saying the matter was being dealt with confidentially, pending an investigation after allegations made against Mr Marshall and the subsequent disciplinary hearing.

Mr Marshall was told on April 25 that he was suspended on full pay and that he must not discuss the matter in public.

It is understood the allegations suggest that Mr Marshall supported the rival C&G offer.

Its terms would have given investors a 3 per cent bonus. The Stroud offer would have given them a 2 per cent bonus.

The board has strongly denied that it accepted the Stroud offer because it offered better terms to the directors.

The initial offer from C&G gave the directors better terms than they would get with the Stroud, said Mr Roy Walwin, the chairman. C&G withdrew these better terms to the directors when they turned down the offer. If members turn down the Stroud offer, which requires 75 per cent of those who vote to be in favour, the C&G offer will not necessarily be put to them.

The board cannot be compelled to ballot the members.

## MBS cuts losses to £4.78m

By Philip Pangalos

MBS, the computer services group that was once the largest personal computer distributor in Britain, cut its losses from £13.9 million to £4.78 million in the year to end-December.

It did so after a substantial restructuring and the disposal of its sale and distribution businesses.

Group turnover stood at £77.3 million, compared with £116.3 million previously.

The loss per share was reduced from 14.6p to 4.7p and, again, there was no dividend.

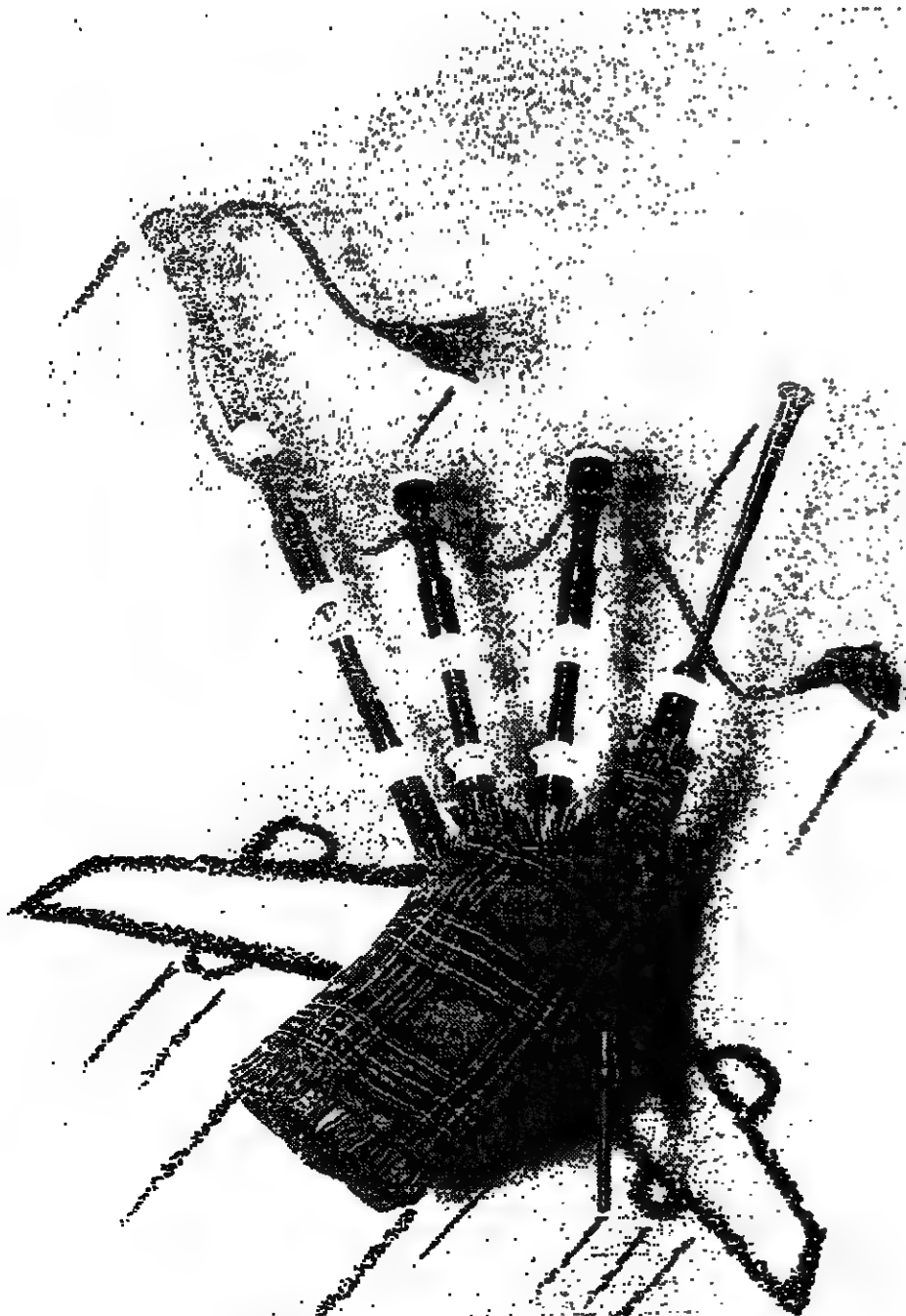
Operating losses of discontinued businesses were cut from £6.16 million to £3.84 million. MBS's continuing businesses doubled operating profits from £579,000 to £1.2 million. There was a provision of more than £5.5 million on the disposals, while interest payments were reduced from

£2.57 million to £926,000.

Total losses stood at £4.93 million for the year, compared with £21 million previously. MBS has acquired the Exchange Telegraph Company, a big British computer-maintenance operator, from Eutel Group for a nominal sum.

MBS said it faced difficulties in building its businesses last year. The shares lost 2p to 16p.

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Where business takes off

Nobel  
from

Cadbury  
in £150m  
issue

By Graham Stewart

Cadbury's £150m issue is the largest ever by a British company.

The issue is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The issue will be used to finance the company's expansion plans.

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# Nobel to buy Crown paints from Williams for £205m

NOBEL Industries Sweden, the Swedish conglomerate, will buy Crown Berger, the British division of Williams Holdings, for £205 million cash.

The move marks an attempt by Nobel to strengthen its position in the European paints market, where it currently ranks fifth, behind ICI, Akzo, Hoechst and BASF.

Crown Berger, best known for Crown paints, is the second largest paint manufacturer in Britain, after ICI, with a market share of about 20 per cent. Mr Brian McGowan, chief executive of Williams, said the sale would lead to an elimination of borrowings, currently running at £180

By Wolfgang Münch, European Business Correspondent

million, and to a reduced exposure to the depressed British consumer products market.

He added that the company did not intend to use the receipts for investments or takeovers. "Cash is king at present and it makes a lot of sense to sit and wait. There is too much uncertainty and it won't be getting better until interest rates come down."

The sale excludes Crown Berger's North American and Portuguese businesses, which account for about 20 per cent of the division's sales. After the sale, Williams Holdings' exposure to consumer products businesses will be reduced to 25 per cent of sales, while

the industrial division will emerge as the predominant part of the company.

Nobel is a conglomerate similar to Williams Holdings, through its exposure to chemical and armaments businesses. Nobel began to build its paint interests about 10 years ago, and has expanded rapidly throughout continental Europe. In Britain, however, its representation has been small.

Today, paints is the company's strongest division. In 1989, it achieved SKr405 million profits (£40.5 million) on SKr6.6 billion turnover. Partly as a result of the strength of this business, Nobel is now Sweden's largest

chemical firm. The group, as a whole, made SKr1.24 billion profits last year after financial items on SKr22 billion turnover.

Crown Berger suffered a fall in profits from £25.6 million to £20.9 million in 1989, although this compared with only £11.4 million in 1987. Crown was bought by Williams Holdings in July, 1987, and Berger was acquired six months later.

Nobel has undertaken to make an additional deferred payment of up to £35 million depending on sales during the current year. The deal met with a positive reaction from the market as the shares rose 9p to close at 250p.

## The Guinness trial Auditor's letter was 'wrongly weighted'

THE senior Guinness auditor missed company directors into thinking he had continually wished to raise worrying deals linked to the Distillers bid with them, it was alleged at Southwark Crown Court.

Mr Howard Hughes, responsible for the Guinness account with Price Waterhouse, was said to have written to board members after allegations were made of improper transactions during the 1986 takeover and implicating Mr Ernest Saunders, the dismissed Guinness chief.

Mr Hughes told the court the wording of his letter, dated January 9, 1987, was wrongly weighted.

It related to four areas of concern discovered by the auditors, including £25 million of confidential payments.

Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, defending Mr Saunders, read the first paragraph of Mr Hughes' letter. It said: "You may be aware I have on a number of occasions expressed concern that all directors should be aware of certain transactions relating to the company's affairs and in particular the acquisition of Distillers."

Mr Hughes agreed he replied to a Department of Trade inspector that a letter from Mr Oliver Roux, the finance director, changed the complexion of the situation.

In response to Mr Ferguson on the opening paragraph of his letter to the board, he said: "I think the weight of it was wrong."

Mr Hughes was asked if it was ever suggested Mr Saunders should have the opportunity to explain his version of events. "There were discussions from time to time about whether he might have information which was useful but I do not believe the company made or approved any of our people making such an approach," he said.

But he denied Lord Irvine, the Guinness president, told him that if the investigation was eased Mr Saunders would be more co-operative.

Mr Saunders, aged 54, and three others variously deny 24 counts including theft, false accounting, and breaches of the Companies Act.

The trial continues today.

## COMMENT

# A Texan walks tall in the shadow of Charter

Timing is everything in markets, and Mr Eugene Anderson, the tall Texan who likes to be known as "Gene", has once again proved himself a master of the art. Gene (it costs nothing to be friendly) moved into Johnson Matthey in the wake of the crisis in Johnson Matthey Bankers which all but inflicted fatal damage on its erstwhile parent. With JMB safely tucked up in bed with the Bank of England, Gene managed to push, pull, tease and bully Johnson Matthey back to health. From near dead, it rose to a market capitalization of over half a billion pounds, while debt went in the opposite direction, from half a billion down to virtually nothing.

It was generally accepted that Gene had done a great job, and if his handsome bonus payments were a reflection of his performance, this was a view shared by the board. Events at Johnson Matthey are not dictated, however, by the normal business criteria which govern other companies. The collapse of JMB directly resulted in the increase in the shareholding of Charter Consolidated to 38 per cent, and when Charter began to feel the weight of its own major shareholder, Minorco, bearing down upon it, the stress was passed on to Johnson Matthey. In two dark nights of the long knives last December, both Gene and his chairman, Neil Clarke, who had already been de-emphasized at Charter, moved out. The men who had saved

Johnson Matthey fell victim to a change of pace at the main beneficiary.

But while the improvement brought about under Gene was undeniable, those with a more critical eye were heard to say that he did nothing that should not have been expected of a highly paid and generously incentivized Harvard MBA, and that the time was approaching for a change of style in any case. Some even claimed that the company had become a little flabby. That view could be reinforced by the measures being put in train by his successor, David Davies, a man who has had more top jobs than most of us have had suits. Johnson Matthey is to undergo an expensive restructuring of the kind which, if it is necessary, perhaps should have been carried out under the recovery programme.

Charter, surprise, surprise, declared itself supportive of the restructuring which will knock up to £15 million off profits, blow a hole below the line and which has already knocked the shares back by 20 per cent. Johnson Matthey's other major shareholder, Cookson, with 8 per cent, said nothing. Either Cookson is biding its time for a clever move, or it is wondering why it purchased the shares in the first place. Its "strategic investment" currently appears as a loss leader.

Meanwhile, Gene has moved on to the yet greater challenge of Ferranti. If he cleans up there as he cleaned up at Johnson Matthey, everyone should be happy. Especially Gene.

## Red rose blossoms in City

Labour's growing liaison with the City could blossom into a torrid love affair if its intentions for the economy are all as well received as the disclosure that a Kinnock government would want only the National Grid company returned to public ownership. The rest of the electricity industry would be left where Mrs Thatcher intends to put it — with the private sector. The new face of socialism yesterday took on a sudden beauty for the utility sector analysts, and the power sell-off that starts this autumn should now be much easier. As Frank Dobson, the shadow energy secretary, made clear when disclosing the modest re-nationalization idea, tougher regulation and long-term energy strategy are Labour's real concerns, not who owns the industry.

The news was music to the ears of James Capel, the Government's broker,

which is tuning up its marketing show for institutional investors. Now their salesmen can say that electricity is a good deal whatever the government — a "win-win" opportunity. In the event of a Labour government, the parts of the industry of value to investors would remain with their private owners. The distributor companies would hardly mourn the dubious loss of the jointly-owned grid.

Like nuclear power, it was probably best left with government in the first place.

Of much more concern is the low level of the shares of the water companies, the issue which was designed and priced to whet the appetites of investors for the much more difficult-to-swallow electricity package. Unless the stem of water sellers can be staunch, the price for electricity will have to be even lower than current estimates.

## Cadbury in £150m issue

By Graham Searjeant

Cadbury-Schweppes is proposing to raise up to £150 million via an issue of preference shares in Canada as part of a plan to cut borrowings and increase its potential cash-raising power to finance future deals.

The group incurred net borrowings of £420 million last year after making £700 million of acquisitions, raising its loan gearing above 60 per cent, even allowing for the inclusion in the balance sheet of a valuation for some acquired brands.

After a proxy battle with General Cinema, which owns about 17 per cent of its stock, Cadbury also raised its borrowing powers to 2.5 times capital and reserves, theoretically lifting its permitted borrowings to £1.7 billion.

It now plans to create about \$450 million of unquoted preference shares, of which between \$150 million and \$250 million denominated in US and Canadian dollars, will initially be issued.

The share issue, aimed at institutions, would raise the group's cash-raising potential in two ways: by reducing existing borrowings and by increasing its capital base.

At the group's annual meeting, Sir Graham Day, the chairman, said profit growth and integration of acquisitions was going according to plan, but that, for the first half, interest costs would mask the expected growth of profits for the full year.

## Kwik Save figures fall short



Disappointing: Sir Timothy Harford, (back), chairman of Kwik Save, with Graeme Seabrook yesterday

By Gillian Bewditch

SHARES in Kwik Save, the discount supermarket group, fell 46p to 470p after disappointing results. The stock knocked £69 million off the market capitalization of the company.

Pre-tax profits rose from £35.3 million to £39.5 million for the six months to March 1990, up from £35.3 million. Analysts had been expecting the group to break through the £40 million level.

Sales rose 28 per cent to £785 million and earnings per share increased 12 per cent, in line with profits, to 16.8p. Like-for-like sales, excluding inflation, rose 12 per cent. The interim dividend has been lifted 16 per cent to 3.7p, from 3.2p.

Mr Graeme Seabrook, managing director and chief executive, acknowledged the results were seen as disappointing and said profits had been affected by a number of factors not present during the comparable period last year.

The most significant was the cost of integrating Victor Value, the chairman of super-markets Kwik Save bought from Iceland last February. The cost of additional scanning equipment and the fact that interest received was down because of a change in the law relating to the timing of corporation tax payment also contributed.

Kwik Save opened 10 new stores, relocated three and refurbished 46 in the first half. It now runs 650 stores and plans to open a further 20 in the second half. The group operates Tates Lateshoppers, a chain of stores.

## Maxwell's 14.9% Bell stake blocked

From Brian Buchanan, Sydney

MR ROBERT Maxwell, the publisher, emerged as the buyer of a strategic stake in Bell Group yesterday, but the acquisition was blocked by the National Companies and Securities Commission, the Australian corporate watchdog.

Mr Maxwell was named as the buyer of more than 48.6 million Bell Group shares — representing 14.9 per cent of the company — after an oral deal at the weekend with Mr

David Aspinall, Bell Group's managing director.

Mr Aspinall was the main buyer of the 19.9 per cent stake sold by the West Australian State Government Insurance Commission on Friday. Media analysts said Mr Maxwell's interest in Bell was almost certainly linked to Bell's ownership of the West Australian, a daily broadsheet newspaper.

They said his involvement was not completely unexpected, given his often-stated

interest in buying into Australian media.

The 14.9 per cent stake is just below the 15 per cent level, which involves notification to Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board.

However, both sales have been put on hold after the NCSC secured an ex-parte interim injunction at the Federal Court in Melbourne freezing the Friday sale.

The NCSC said it wanted to examine the circumstances of both the Maxwell purchase

and Friday's sale, in which Mr Aspinall bought 16.57 per cent of the company. He was forced to sell the shares after it became clear the acquisition breached the Takeover Code.

Earlier yesterday, Dr Arthur McHugh, the executive director of the NCSC, said: "It appears the original sale to Mr Aspinall was a breach of the Takeover Code because Mr Aspinall, a senior Bond Corp executive, might have been an associate of Bond Corp, Bell Group's main shareholder."

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Knight fights the good fight

THE appointment of former Stock Exchange chief executive Jeffrey Knight as a special adviser to the Federation of Stock Exchanges in the European Community — as revealed in this column this week — has raised a few eyebrows in official Stock Exchange circles. Those eyebrows, raised with pleasure rather than dismay, have been elevated primarily because his task in this new role will be to devise an exchange system to embrace the Continent's top 300 companies. For Knight has apparently crossed swords with key EC members in the past. The "run in" referred to was with the Germans, who disagreed with his proposals for capital adequacy for securities firms. "They wanted them to be far stricter, since they have such a strong banking history, and far less entrepreneurial, which would have put a number of small independent British firms out of business," my inside source reveals. But those proposals have since been redrafted twice, and become even less stringent in the process. "It must have been a unanimous decision to appoint him and so he must now have the support of the Germans," my intrigued informant continued. And his appointment is seen as "tremendously good news" for the City.

**Binns bounces in**  
ONE of the best known characters in the world of financial public relations,

Peter Binns, who founded the Binns Cornwall firm 10 years ago — and has since suffered the triple blow of ill-health and the disintegration of both the firm and his marriage — is about to return. Binns, a popular and normally bubbly man, will become a director of another PR firm, the Haggie Company, with effect from Monday. He will be taking a number of his old and loyal clients with him, and will be given a share stake in due course. The Haggie Company was founded by chartered accountant David Haggie — once finance director of the quoted video and television production company Molinare Visions, now part of WH Smith — four years ago. "I've known Peter for quite a long time — he had once wanted me to join him at Binns Cornwall," Haggie says. "He has had a rotten time and has been treated badly. I have always liked him and think this move could be mutually beneficial." A warm welcome awaits him, I know....



"Phew."

### Compact brains

THE much-publicized theft of £292 million of Treasury Bills and Certificates of Deposit from a Sheppards Money Broker messenger in King William Street yesterday has clearly caused some puzzlement in certain less-sophisticated City circles. Upon hearing that the messenger had been "relieved" — in quaint Bank of England-speak — of £122 million of CDs, two young female yellow jackets (juniors) of the floor of the Liffe market were heard to remark: "How on earth did he manage to fit 122 million CDs in his bag?"

● FOUR yachts which were spotted on the same day in Auckland Harbour: Tequila Sunrise, Gin Fizz, Whisky Galore and Cirrhosis of the River.

### Naming of blocks

IN A contest which reveals a rare insight into the mentality of its employees, Smith New Court has been inviting its staff to suggest a name for its lavish new office block in Farringdon Road. A 140,000 sq ft building, due to be completed early next year — which Smith New Court is leasing from the Ladbroke subsidiary Gable House Developments — it will boast a large car park, two squash courts, a swimming pool, fully staffed gymnasium and a staff restaurant — all in stark contrast to its present abode in St Swithin's Lane, which is well known to be among the most functional in the City.

Human resources director Robert Timms, who has been offering a magnum of champagne to the winner of the competition, is now sifting through some 42 "polite" suggestions. "The others were all far too rude," he quips. Among those on the censored list are The Railway Tavern, The Farringdon Arms and The Court House.

### Oil and water

THE fall-out at County NatWest WoodMac, as a direct result of the firm's dramatic recruitment of up to 100 one-time employees of the defunct American firm Drexel Burnham Lambert, continues. In February, Tim Ferguson, the ambitious and comparatively new managing director of County NatWest Securities, was priding himself on having netted so many key individuals from the debris of the collapsed firm, both in the US and elsewhere. But now the cracks in the attempt to weld the two management teams together are, it seems, beginning to show. And able equity sales supremo Richard Williamson — a pillar of the Stock Exchange Ski Club — who had been poached from Warburg Securities to take responsibility for WoodMac's European and international development, has resigned. "It was by mutual agreement," says County. But word is that one of the aforementioned Drexel recruits was about to be introduced over his head, and so he did the only honourable thing. He should not be unemployed for long.

Carol Leonard

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run £2b**

British  
purchases  
boost  
Fitzwilliam

[illegible]

**General Accident**  
**POLL RESULTS**

[illegible]



# GEC and BAe in the race to run £2bn helicopter project

By Angela Mackay

AT LEAST five companies have submitted expressions of interest to become prime contractor on the £2 billion EH101 Merlin helicopter project.

The principal contenders are GEC, British Aerospace, Boeing and IBM. Westland also registered its interest, but is unlikely to be awarded the contract because it lacks the financial influence needed to pull the project in line.

The Ministry of Defence will stop taking applications on May 18 and the tender competition will start in June. The prime contractor will be awarded the contract by the end of this year and will be responsible for keeping the project within a specified budget.

Sir Peter Levene, chief of defence procurement at the ministry, became worried about the galloping costs of the project last year, when it also became clear that the helicopter would not be ready for delivery by the end of 1992. In 1986, the Government budgeted £1.3 billion development costs. That figure has been exceeded by more than £500 million.

In February, a parliamentary defence committee said that if costs for the EH101 looked like rising much more, it could prompt the Govern-

ment to question the viability of the entire programme.

Westland has already flown eight of nine pre-production Merlins, which has military and civil models. Last week, a commercial variant designed to carry 30 passengers made its maiden flight.

The helicopter has been jointly developed by Westland and Gruppo Agusta of Italy. They are confident it will find a commercial market, particularly since an anti-vibration system has made the ride much quieter and smoother. Westland is confident it will prove popular with the offshore oil industry.

Systems integration has proved the project's major stumbling block. Westland has said the various radar, sonar and weapons suites have been successfully married, but that there are still hitches, mostly related to spiralling costs.

Mr Alan Jones, Westland's chief executive who has been at the helm for one year, is anxious to have the first production order placed by the end of 1991. Even though Westland's new strategy focuses on civil aviation, military orders provide critical development funds and ensure the maintenance of the company's specialist workforce.



Worried about escalating costs: Sir Peter Levene

## Campbell Soup cuts 19% of HQ jobs

From John Dury, New York

THE new chief executive of the Campbell Soup company, Mr David Johnson, has wasted little time in making his mark.

He slashed head office staff numbers by 19 per cent this week.

The move, which will see 364 jobs disappear from the company's New Jersey head office, comes shortly after similar cuts in its British operations.

Last month, Mr Johnson reorganized the UK Freshbake operations, which resulted in staff numbers being cut by 40 per cent.

Mr Johnson took over as chief executive in January when the company was plagued by a split among the Dorrance family, its majority shareholder, over the company's financial performance.

Campbell ranks as one of the worst performers in the United States food industry despite its brand names and Mr Johnson told *The Times* recently about his plans to inject a more profit-orientated approach within the company.

Mr Johnson, who described the head office cuts as a "dramatic culture change," expects to save \$17 million a year on the total wages bill.

## President to leave Carter as part of cost-cutting drive

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

MR Arthur Ross, the president and co-chief executive of the Carter Organisation, the American division of VPI Group, the public relations consultant, is leaving as part of a move to cut the company's costs.

Six weeks ago, Mr Donald Carter, the founder of the American company, admitted stealing more than \$1 million from clients over a two-year period.

Mr Ross, aged 48, who has been with Carter, which is based in New York, since 1985, said business could be better, and that his departure is part of a programme of cuts in administration costs.

He is one of a number of senior executives who will leave Carter before the end of the month.

VPI is also set to change the name of the American organization in an attempt to distance itself from Mr Carter, aged 41, who has also admitted filing false tax returns. He will be sentenced next month.

Charges against him carry a maximum 11 years' prison term and fines of \$2 million. The tax evasion charges carry penalties of \$2 million. But any prison sentence is expected to be limited to a maximum of four years. Mr

Carter has agreed to pay back the \$1 million he stole from clients, which included Shell Oil, Union Carbide and Revlon. Between 1987 and last year, he routinely billed clients for bogus expenses.

The Carter Organisation is still conducting an internal investigation into the matter. Mr Angus Maitland, the chairman of VPI, has promised legal action against Mr Carter if the tax evasion charge means the company has also been defrauded.

VPI bought Mr Carter's company for \$75 million in 1987. The investigation by the New York State Organized Crime Task Force concluded that the Carter swindle took place between 1987 and 1989 and his tax returns were falsified for the years 1985 and 1986.

Mr Ross said: "We have lost only two clients since March 29 [when Mr Carter admitted his guilt] and we have added between six and 12."

"Our own investigation is still going on. But we are still hoping to find out more about this \$1 million restitution fund and how it will operate for our clients."

Mr Ross will continue with Carter for a few months, after which he will hand over the reins to Mr Dennis Mensch, aged 37, co-chief executive in charge of client services.

## Tullow Oil to raise £5.68m

TULLOW Oil, the Irish oil and gas exploration company, is raising Ir£5.85 million (£5.68 million) through a rights and warrants issue to help finance its expansion programme.

The rights issue, which is fully underwritten, will involve 31.3 million new ordinary shares and on the basis of 8-for-24, at Ir13p per share. Shareholders are also being offered three warrants for every eight shares taken up. The warrants entitle shareholders to subscribe for one new share per warrant at Ir18.5p.

## Multitrust loss

Multitrust, the investment trust, is not paying a dividend despite an interim forecast of 0.5p. It made a loss of £14,430 in the six months to end-March, compared with a pre-tax revenue of £9,833. There is a 0.41p loss per share, against earnings of 0.25p.

## Philips holding

Philips, the Dutch consumer group, has taken a 25 per cent stake in Bang & Olufsen, the Danish audio group, for Dkr340 million (£32.4 million).

## IEP lifts stake

Sir Ron Brierley's IEP Securities has raised its stake in United Scientific Holdings to 26.2 per cent.

## British purchases boost Fitzwilton

By Our City Staff

ACQUISITIONS in its British motor and cash and carry businesses helped Fitzwilton, the Irish holding company, take its recovery much further in 1989.

Pre-tax profits were Ir£12.1 million (£11.8 million), against Ir£5.3 million in the previous 18-month period.

Earnings per share of Ir11.2p against Ir9.8p increased 56 per cent on an annualized basis.

The dividend of Ir3.5p compares with Ir2.5p for the previous 12 months.

Keep Trust, the motor distribution business, was included for seven months and M6 Cash & Carry, which joined the earlier Roy Hall acquisition, for five months. Motor, cash and carry and the Irish specialized manufacturing businesses all increased contributions.

The motor side, which accounts for about 40 per cent of ongoing profits is still holding its own, thanks to Vauxhall distributorships and because most of its profits do not come directly from car sales.

The cash and carry division, which accounts for about 30 per cent of ongoing profits and is mainly geared to low-price items and food, is still moving ahead.

Last week, Fitzwilton, which is headed by Mr Tony O'Reilly, chairman of HJ Heinz, completed an Ir£80 million subscription for 29.9 per cent of Waterford Wedgwood, the ailing international tableware group, in partnership with Morgan Stanley, US investment bank.

Fitzwilton's initial investment of Ir£25 million, which is showing an initial loss, represents about a fifth of its total assets, but is seen as the long-term basis for a new core division in branded products.

Meanwhile, the group plans to expand further by buying individual motor distributorships and cash and carry businesses.

## Keller sold in £26m buyout from GKN

By Derek Harris

GKN, the engineering group, has sold its foundations division — a specialist in building services and site foundations engineering — to its management for £26.2 million.

For GKN, it is not a core business but Keller, as it will now be known, has been growing internationally including by acquisition.

In the year to last December it had a turnover of £101.5 million with a profit, before interest and tax, of £4.4 million.

The deal represents a premium over net assets of £7.1 million.

Keller has developed into a leading international specialist in its field providing services to the construction industry.

These include solving problems of foundation support, underpinning, ground retention, ground water control and seismic protection.

Keller believes it has identified a growing environmental protection market.

Dr Michael West, Keller's chief executive, said: "Keller will be able to take full advantage of the opportunities for expansion that exist across our business and provide effective incentives for our senior staff."

Keller has two operational bases in Britain at Coventry, West Midlands, and Wetherby, West Yorkshire, with others in West Germany and Maryland in the United States.

It expanded into Germany in 1974 by acquisition. This was followed by takeovers in the United States and Britain between 1984 and 1986. But there has also been organic growth.

The management buyout is being funded by a mixture of equity — from Candover Investments, the venture capitalists — and debt provided by Bank of Scotland and Berliner Bank.

# Record earnings from an international business.

## Six points from Julian Ogilvie Thompson's Chairman's Statement for 1989.

### The diamond market

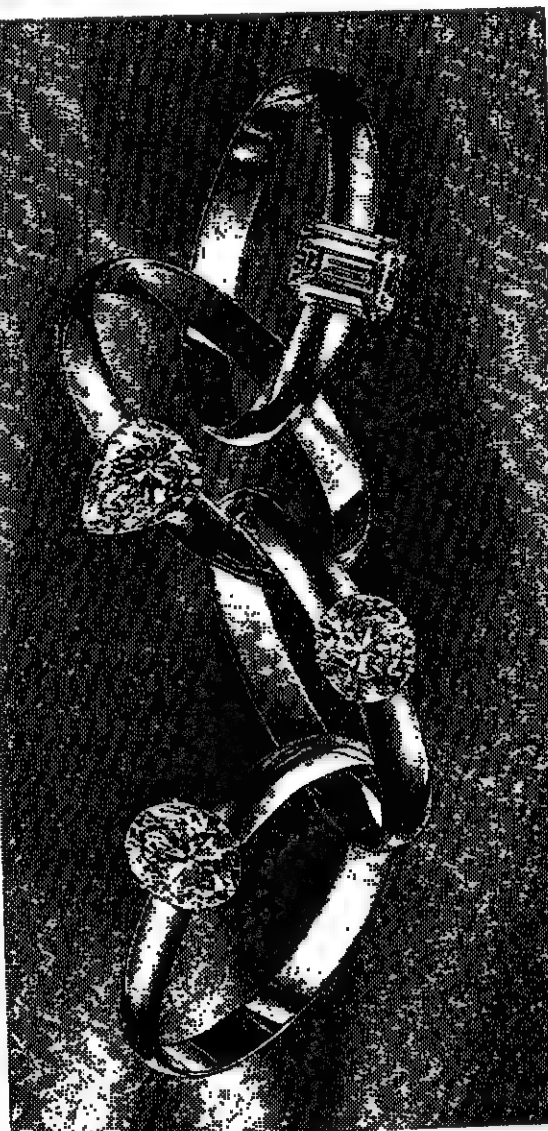
De Beers announced an increase in attributable profits to R2865 million (US\$1127 million) and a 40% increase in dividends. For the seventh year in succession, world retail sales of diamond jewellery set another record. However, as anticipated, growth slowed to a more normal rate and it was a year of consolidation in rough diamond sales. The rough diamond market was strong in the first part of 1990 and we expect another satisfactory year.

### New Swiss company

The diamond industry operates on a global basis. In 1989 80% of De Beers' attributable profits were earned outside South Africa. In recognition of this, we have proposed the establishment of a Swiss based company, De Beers Centenary AG, to hold the foreign interests of the group. De Beers and De Beers Centenary AG will continue to co-operate closely to maintain the stability of the industry. These proposals have been well received by the stock market and the substantial re-rating of De Beers will stand shareholders and the industry in good stead in the years to come.

### Namibian independence

De Beers and our subsidiary CDM applaud Namibia's admission to the community of nations and, as longstanding corporate citizens, reaffirm our commitment to its



The diamond industry employs more than 1 million people in 40 countries around the world, all linked by a common goal and all working toward a defined target. We owe our success to their commitment.

development and success. This commitment is best illustrated by our investment in the Navachab gold mine, and the new diamond mines at Auchas and Elizabeth Bay. CDM marked Namibia's independence with a special donation of US\$2 million towards a national educational institute.

The full Chairman's Statement is contained in the Annual Report of the Company for the year ended 31st December 1989, which has been posted to Shareholders.

# De Beers

De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited (Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa) London Office, 40 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1AJ.

## GA General Accident

### POLL RESULTS

Results of the polls taken at the meetings convened by The Court of Session and held on Wednesday, 2nd May 1990 for the purpose of considering a Scheme of Arrangement in connection with the establishment of a new non-insurance holding company 'General Accident plc'.

General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation plc is pleased to announce that the resolutions put, respectively, to meetings of the holders of General Accident Ordinary Shares and General Accident Convertible Loan Notes, were duly passed by the requisite majorities in accordance with Section 425(2) of the Companies Act 1985.

Subject to the approval of The Court of Session it is anticipated that the Scheme of Arrangement will become effective on 6th July 1990.

General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation plc.  
World Headquarters: Pittsfield, Perth, Scotland FK2 0NL



## Encouraging savers to share ownership

**The practice of retaining**

I was never given a coherent reason why this could not be done, but perhaps Mr Ken-

A further consequence would be to reduce the capital appreciation of shares, and perhaps capital gains tax would become unnecessary.  
Yours faithfully,  
**MAURICE GILLIBRAND,**  
7 Tal-y-Cae,  
Tregarth,  
Bangor,  
Gwynedd.  
April 24.

Yours faithfully,  
**VALERIE GOLDBERG,**  
6 Hollycroft Avenue,  
Wembley,  
Middlesex  
April 15.

The shop in Dubai was evidently content to make 65p profit or 61 per cent mark-up so Mr Clegg was enjoying a genuine duty-free price and there is no reason why shops at Heathrow should not offer the same. Describing shops at our airports as being duty-free comes perilously close to infringing the Trades Description Act. At best they are discount shops and sometimes not particularly competitive with the High Street.

The most dangerous aspect of duty-free shopping at air-

liquid that could break loose and hinder escape in an otherwise survivable accident. A far better system — as used in Australia — would be to allow passengers to buy their duty-free before leaving the airport at their destination.

Yours faithfully,  
**JAMES RUSBRIDGE,**  
Tremorebridge, Lanivet,  
Bodmin, Cornwall.

**Industry** has accepted the challenge. Business investment in fixed capital is now 40 per cent up on three years ago and our surveys show that investment in training and innovation has also risen significantly. Our Pay Data-bank shows that productivity

**From Mr Philip Muston**  
Sir, Your headline "Industry Fear of Surge in Wage Claims" (April 23) shows that the CBI has at last awakened to the wage inflation hazard which became fairly obvious to the man in the street at least 18 months ago.

But what puzzles this man in the street is industry's supine attitude. Why are not wage increases rejected unless fully covered by real productivity increases? Why is it so readily accepted that an excessive wage claim is something

Business costs which are controlled by Government (eg. local authority rates and electricity prices) are rising at more than double the rate of increase in West Germany.

to be feared rather than firmly opposed?

Is it that the excessive salary increases taken by upper and middle management have weakened their will to resist? Why does not the CBI do something to live up to the first word of its title and attempt to co-ordinate resistance to wage-based inflation? Yours faithfully,  
**PHILIP MUSTON,**  
37 Sandy Lane,  
Putney,  
Richmond upon Thames,  
Surrey.

**From Mr Jeremy Maurice**  
Sir, The partners at Ernst & Young can take heart. Whilst their abseiling exploits may convince many that accountants are not boring (City Diary, April 24), British Telecom needs no persuading. Under the entry "Boring" in the *Yellow Pages*, it says "See Civil Engineers".  
Yours faithfully,  
**JEREMY MAURICE,**  
All Saints Chambers,  
Holbeck House,  
9/11 Broad Street, Bristol.  
April 24.

So far, several private  
shareholders holding from

**Yours faithfully,**  
**JUDITH LYONS,**  
**Nathan, Silman,**  
**Solicitors,**  
**Osprey House,**  
**78 Wigmore Street,**  
**LONDON W1.**  
**April 27.**

The Dubai Government was anxious to attract transit passengers (generally in long-range aircraft) to land at Dubai rather than at other Gulf or nearby airports. One way was

The Government regulated the import of alcohol into the country, the *quid pro quo* for being permitted to supply and/or import liquor for profitable local consumption was to supply brands to the Dubai Airport authorities at artificially low prices.

Yours faithfully,  
BARRY HUGHES,  
4 Monkham's Avenue,  
Woodford Green, Essex.

Cuba										Puerto Rico										Cuba										Puerto Rico									
Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
420	22	40	50	37	17	22	60	40	20	420	22	40	50	37	17	22	60	40	20	420	22	40	50	37	17	22	60	40	20	420	22	40	50	37	17	22	60	40	20
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**UK INCOME TAX** at the reduced rate of 10% on the gross amount will be deducted from payments made to UK residents instead of at the basic rate of 25%. This represents a provisional allowance of credit at the rate of 15% for the Dutch dividend tax already withheld. No UK income tax will be deducted from payments to non-UK residents who submit an Inland Revenue Affidavit of non-residence in the UK.

A statement of the procedure for claiming relief from Dutch dividend tax and for the encashment of coupons, including names of paying agents and convention countries, can be obtained from Midland at the address below.

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London Transfer Office, Midland Securities Services, Client Delivery,  
Stock Exchange Services, Suffolk House, 5 Laurence Pountney  
Hill, London EC4R 0EN.  
3rd May 1990.

lost due to a ...  
has been held ...  
It was ...  
sight in ...  
for the challenge ...  
the Single ...



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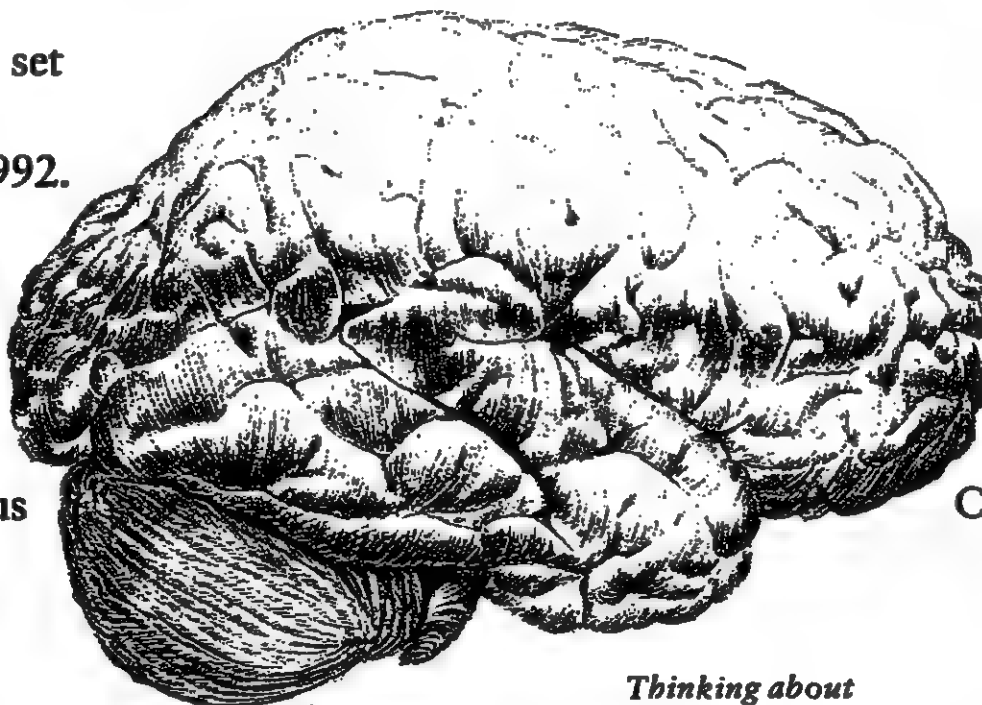
Now, productivity levels are above Germany's average.

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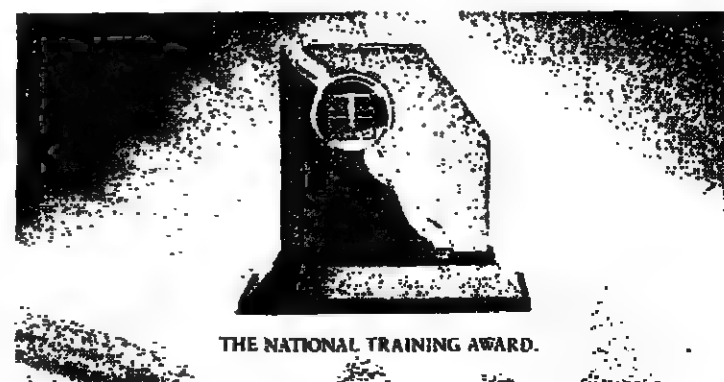
(After all, wouldn't you rather work for a company that's prepared to invest both time and money in its staff?)

Then there's the free publicity.

As well as appearing in our advertising, winners are featured in a special Times supplement and on Channel 4's "Business Daily" programme.

In short, if you're thinking ahead and preparing for the opportunities in Europe, enter this year's awards.

You'll find that success in 1990 could mean even greater success for you in 1992.



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## ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
AUT 2,558	CU 1,300	Lloyds 2,515	Seas 1,174
Admiral 2,558	Cookson 1,300	Lloyds 2,515	Seas 1,174
Admiral 2,558	Cookson 1,300	Lloyds 2,515	Seas 1,174
Admiral 2,558	Cookson 1,300	Lloyds 2,515	Seas 1,174
Admiral 2,558	Cookson 1,300	Lloyds 2,515	Seas 1,174
Admiral 2,558	Cookson 1,300	Lloyds 2,515	Seas 1,174
Admiral 2,558	Cookson 1,300	Lloyds 2,515	Seas 1,174
Admiral 2,558	Cookson 1,300	Lloyds 2,515	Seas 1,174
Admiral 2,558	Cookson 1,300	Lloyds 2,515	Seas 1,174
Admiral 2,558	Cookson 1,300	Lloyds 2,515	Seas 1,174

## WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily change	Yearly change	Daily change	Yearly change
The World	705.4	0.8	-18.4	1.1	-12.2
Europe	1236.0	1.3	-20.7	1.3	-15.6
(free)	126.9	1.3	-20.9	1.2	-15.8
Europe	719.5	0.7	-5.4	0.8	-5.7
(free)	154.9	0.7	-5.2	0.6	-5.6
Nth America	496.2	0.0	-7.8	0.2	-8.2
Nordic	1481.0	0.4	-4.8	0.5	-4.9
(free)	234.2	0.4	-0.4	0.6	-0.5
Pacific	2806.4	1.8	-29.2	1.6	-21.4
Far East	4056.7	1.7	-29.7	1.8	-21.9
Australia	291.5	2.5	-16.1	1.9	-10.3
Austria	1851.0	-0.2	-24.6	0.2	-26.1
Belgium	910.7	0.6	-7.5	1.0	-8.1
Canada	496.6	-0.1	-17.3	0.2	-15.2
Denmark	1285.2	-0.3	-2.4	0.0	-3.4
Finland	99.9	-0.2	-13.4	0.0	-13.4
(free)	137.1	-1.2	-8.0	-1.0	-8.1
France	830.3	0.6	-2.7	0.8	-2.1
Germany	3357.7	1.6	-2.3	1.7	-3.6
Hong Kong	2257.3	0.5	-3.6	0.5	-3.1
Italy	380.7	-0.1	-1.2	0.1	-2.2
Japan	4278.3	1.8	-30.6	1.7	-22.8
Netherlands	869.1	0.2	-8.1	0.4	-7.3
New Zealand	83.5	1.1	-19.0	0.9	-14.1
Norway	1510.2	2.2	-12.5	2.3	-13.2
(free)	264.8	2.3	-13.4	2.4	-14.1
Singapore	1835.3	-0.4	-7.9	-0.3	-7.7
Spain	213.8	0.0	-8.7	0.0	-11.1
Sweden	1812.4	0.2	-8.1	0.4	-7.9
(free)	232.1	0.1	-4.1	0.3	-3.9
Switzerland	862.4	0.3	-8.8	0.6	-10.4
(free)	130.0	0.4	-6.8	0.7	-10.4
UK	633.2	0.8	-12.2	0.8	-12.2
USA	449.7	0.0	-6.9	0.2	-5.4

## RECENT ISSUES

Equities	Value	Daily change	Yearly change	Daily change	Yearly change
ABN Leisure (1990)	118	16.1	-16.1	1.0	-15.1
ADG Group (14p)	50	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0
Abstract New Euro (100p)	50	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0
Argos Plc	194	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0
Beta Global Emag (100p)	50	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0
Blockbuster (1p)	50	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0
Blockbuster (1p)	50	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0
Blockbuster (1p)	50	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0
Blockbuster (1p)	50	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0
Blockbuster (1p)	50	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0

STOCK MARKET  
Dealers find little cheer despite extended rally

SHARE prices extended this week's rally with what dealers described as the classic "dead cat bounce" — an upward movement following a sharp fall, but displaying few signs of life.

An overnight rise on Wall Street encouraged a few cheap buyers early in the session in London, putting market-makers on the defensive in thin conditions. But dealers complained of little real follow-through and said the turnover figure of 433 million shares had been artificially boosted by several small programme trades.

As a result, prices closed below their best levels of the day, with the FT-SE 100 index ending 19.7 points up at 2,137.6, having been 27 points higher at one stage. The FT index of 30 shares rose 14.5 to 1,678.0.

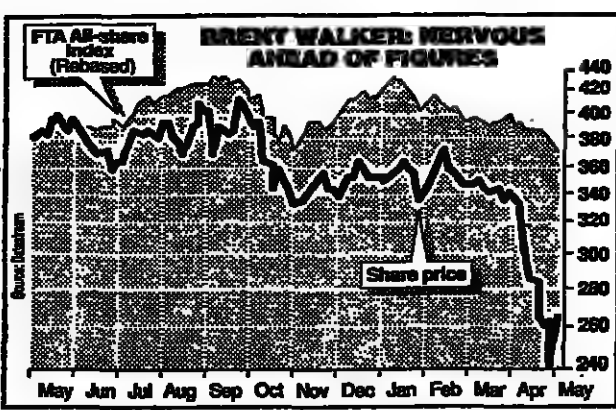
Government securities clawed their way back after a dull start to end £4 higher at the longer end, supported by another firm performance from sterling.

Among leaders, British Steel rose 2 1/2p to 140p, helped by a recommendation from BZW. Royal Bank of Scotland climbed 4 moves to LWT's Princes Wharf site south of the River Thames, one of four candidates for the fourth channel's headquarters. The preferred shares fell 2p to 75 1/2p.

Later, Williams responded with a rise of 9p to 250p.

The news revived hopes of a full bid for Vale & Valor, the heating appliances and security group. Its shares rose 1 1/2p to 285p. Williams holds a near 6 per cent stake in Vale & Valor and there was speculation at one time that it would eventually make a full offer for the rest.

As expected, Fairline Boats sank 60p to 730p after the group's denial that it had received a bid approach. The breakdown in bid talks left



managers, and has also attracted the support of BZW. After weeks of speculation, Williams Holdings, the industrial conglomerate, has confirmed plans to dispose of its Crown Berger Paints business. Sweden's Nobel Industries is paying £240 million in cash. Williams acquired Crown from Reed International in 1987 and bought Berger a year

later. Williams responded with a rise of 9p to 250p. The news revived hopes of a full bid for Vale & Valor, the heating appliances and security group. Its shares rose 1 1/2p to 285p. Williams holds a near 6 per cent stake in Vale & Valor and there was speculation at one time that it would eventually make a full offer for the rest.

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better-than-expected interim figures showing pre-tax profits up from £70 million to £87.5 million. The shares lifted 4 1/2p to 276p. But the market gave a cool reception to half-time trading news from Kwik Save, down 46p to 470p, with profits only £4 million ahead at £39 million.

Brent Walker, the leisure group, remained a volatile market ahead of full-year figures next week. Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits of between £65 million and £70 million, against £41.9 million last time. Share disposals by the directors on the last possible day of the open season has cast a cloud over sentiment in recent weeks. However, the shares rose 6p to 265p.

The City has also become concerned about the group's high level of debt and is worried that interest charges will have eaten into profits.

Wellcome, the pharmaceutical group, rose 14p to 676p ahead of interim figures today. Stockbrokers are forecasting a rise in pre-tax profits of 29 per cent to £165 million, with sales of Retrovir, the only approved anti-Aids drug, climbing 44 per cent to £85 million. For the full-year, Schroders has pencilled in profits of £360 million (£282 million).

Pfizer, the electrical appliances group, rose 5p to 212p as the group embarked on its own share buy-back programme. This week, it has bought a total of 12,500 ordinary shares and 17,500 A shares, 8p better at 170p.

Pfizer is capitalized at £15 million and has about £8 million in cash on deposit.

Michael Clark

## WALL STREET

## Early rise for Dow

New York  
THE Dow Jones industrial average was 6.76 points ahead at 1,843.41 after the May Day holiday.  
● Tokyo — The Nikkei index rose 483.81 points, or 1.63 per cent, to 30,173.64.  
● Hong Kong — The Hang Seng index rose 12.58 points to 2,957.76.  
● Frankfurt — The Dax index gained 30.16 points from Monday's close to end at 1,843.41 after the May Day holiday.  
● Singapore — The Straits Times industrial index shed 0.22 of a point to 1,458.18.  
● Sydney — The All-Ordinaries index rose 22.3 points to 1,462.9.

(Reuters)

May 2	May 1	May 2	May 1	May 2	May 1
midday	close	midday	close	midday	close
Abbott Lab	68	67 1/2	Enron	52	51 1/2
Admiral	48 1/2	47 1/2	Energy	18 1/2	18 1/2
Admiral	48 1/2	47 1/2	Energy	18 1/2	18 1/2
Admiral	48 1/2	47 1/2	Energy	18 1/2	18 1/2
Admiral	48 1/2	47 1/2	Energy	18 1/2	18 1/2
Admiral	48 1/2	47 1/2	Energy	18 1/2	18 1/2
Admiral	48 1/2	47 1/2	Energy	18 1/2	18 1/2
Admiral	48 1/2	47 1/2	Energy	18 1/2	18 1/2
Admiral	48 1/2	47 1/2	Energy	18 1/2	18 1/2
Admiral	48 1/2	47 1/2	Energy	18 1/2	18 1/2

## Burger King switches to Coke

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

THE war between Coca-Cola and Pepsi, the soft drinks groups, heightened this week when the Burger King fast food chain made the switch.

The estimated \$2.3 billion contract for America's second largest hamburger chain, with 5,400 outlets, was taken from Pepsi after six years.

It will mean every other fast food customer in America will be drinking Coke with a meal.

Burger King, part of Grand Metropolitan, which is headed by Mr. Allen Sheppard, sought fresh proposals from both companies nine months after it had confirmed Pepsi as its

US supplier, when its five-year contract came up for renewal last year.

Burger King said: "We review these contracts once a year and two months ago asked each company for a new proposal. We were not dissatisfied with Pepsi, but Coca-Cola offered us the best package in terms of sophisticated dispensing, a special Burger King account management team and rewards on volume of sales."

Coca-Cola said: "They will be one of our biggest customers, we will now have more than half the market

with this new contract. The thing that the last few years has taught the food industry is that you cannot supply the drinks to restaurants and be their competition."

PepsiCo is America's largest fast food restaurant owner with Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell.

Within seven months Pepsi will lose another fast food contract to Coke when Wendy's, a hamburger chain, changes suppliers.

Coke supplies 100,000 American restaurants owned by the five main fast food chains, including McDonald's.



Sheppard: \$2.3bn deal

## TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings  
Last Dealings  
Last Declaration  
For Settlement

CIS  
Co-operative Insurance  
£1 BILLION  
BREAKTHROUGH

## Record growth in premium income

## Results for 1989

Another record increase in premium income, to £1,032 million (exceeding £1 billion for the first time).

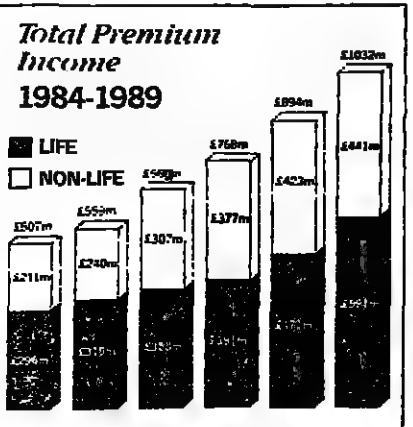
Life assurance and pensions premium income up by 25% to £591 million.

Motor and property insurance premium income up to £411 million.

Surplus on life assurance and pensions business up by 29% to £379 million — further increases in bonuses.

Household and motor policyholders qualify once again for special discounts on their premiums after just 3 years.

Highly successful launch of first two unit trusts by CIS Unit Managers Ltd.



It is pleasing to be able to look back on yet another successful year for the Society. The pattern of our business is changing much more rapidly than was the case ten or more years ago, and the future success of the Society will depend on our ability to respond to the radical changes being brought about in the financial environment in which we operate.

From the Report of the Chairman, Mr. D. J. Wise, OBE, to the Annual General Meeting on 2nd May 1990.

CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE SOCIETY LTD., MILLER STREET, MANCHESTER, M60 0AL

The CIS is a member of TSB, a part of a marketing group which includes CIS Unit Managers Ltd.

## TATE+LYLE

"In all major areas of our core business we are expecting continuing good performances to produce another satisfactory result for the full year." Neil Shaw  
Chairman & Chief Executive

Unaudited Interim Results	1990	1989
Turnover	£1,682m	£1,517m
Profit Before Tax	£87.5m	£70.2m
EPS (Fully Diluted)	11.7p	9.0p
Interim Dividend	3.3p	2.9p
Extraordinary Profit	£25.8m	-

- Turnover up 11%
- Profits up 25%
- EPS up 30%
- Interim dividend 14%

These Unaudited Interim results do not constitute full financial statements. Details of the Interim Report for the 26 weeks to March 31, 1990 are being mailed to shareholders.

Further copies may be obtained from: N. J. Nightingale, Secretary, Tate & Lyle PLC, Sugar Quay, Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 4DQ.







**D**uring the past few years, the world has seen a rapid increase in the use of nuclear power. This is due to the fact that nuclear power is a clean, safe, and reliable source of energy. It is also a very efficient way to produce electricity. In fact, nuclear power is now the second largest source of electricity in the world, after coal. The use of nuclear power has also led to the development of new technologies, such as nuclear medicine and nuclear power plants. These technologies have made a significant contribution to the world's progress. The future of nuclear power is bright, and it is expected to continue to grow in the years ahead.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was up at 87.1 (day's range 87.0-87.1)

# STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

# OTHER STERLING RATES

Market rates for May 2											
Range		Close		3 month							
New York	1.6385-1.6435	1.6425-1.6435	0.91-0.99p	2.65-2.66p		Argentina dollar	8016.28-8052.94				
London	1.6118-1.6198	1.6180-1.6198	0.30-0.21p	0.80-0.53p		Australia dollar	2.1800-2.1840				
Frankfurt	3.1780-3.1820	3.1780-3.1820	11-13p	11-13p		Belgian franc	0.6150-0.6200				
Rosetta	1.6350-1.6380	1.6350-1.6380	31-23p	31-23p		Brazil cruzado	83.2459-83.9843				
Geneva	1.6350-1.6380	1.6350-1.6380	11-13p	11-13p		Cyprus pound	0.7750-0.7850				
Paris	1.6350-1.6380	1.6350-1.6380	11-13p	11-13p		Dutch guilder	0.6500-0.6550				
Amsterdam	1.6350-1.6380	1.6350-1.6380	11-13p	11-13p		Greek drachma	260.15-272.35				
Madrid	1.6350-1.6380	1.6350-1.6380	11-13p	11-13p		Hong Kong dollar	12.7780-12.7880				
Frankfurt	1.6350-1.6380	1.6350-1.6380	11-13p	11-13p		Indian rupee	40.00-40.70				
London	1.6350-1.6380	1.6350-1.6380	11-13p	11-13p		Kuwait dinar KD	0.4790-0.4850				
Paris	1.6350-1.6380	1.6350-1.6380	11-13p	11-13p		Malaysian ringgit	4.4050-4.4548				
Amsterdam	1.6350-1.6380	1.6350-1.6380	11-13p	11-13p		Mexican peso	4.950-4.958				
Madrid	1.6350-1.6380	1.6350-1.6380	11-13p	11-13p		New Zealand dollar	2.4870-2.4758				
Frankfurt	1.6350-1.6380	1.6350-1.6380	11-13p	11-13p		Saudi Arabia riyal	8.1140-8.1650				
London	1.6350-1.6380	1.6350-1.6380	11-13p	11-13p		Singapore dollar	3.0735-3.0770				
Paris	1.6350-1.6380	1.6350-1.6380	11-13p	11-13p		South African rand	6.2900-6.2980				
Amsterdam	1.6350-1.6380	1.6350-1.6380	11-13p	11-13p		Swiss franc	2.0000-2.0050				
Madrid	1.6350-1.6380	1.6350-1.6380	11-13p	11-13p		U.A.E. dirham	5.9975-6.0075				
Frankfurt	1.6382-1.2971	1.6452-2.3913	14-1p	3p-3p							

premiums = pr. Discount = dis.  
 Lloyds Bank. Rates supplied by  
 Edelcor Westways Bank GTS

## DOLLAR SPOT RATES

United States	1.5925-1.5940	Denmark	6.9890-6.9930	Italy	1233.5-1234.5
London	1.5931-1.5745	W Germany	1.6840-1.6847	Belgium (Com)	34.70-34.74
Frankfurt	1.5931-1.5745	France	1.6840-1.6847	Hong Kong	7.7895-7.7920
Amsterdam	1.5931-1.5745	Netherlands	1.6930-1.6940	Japan	14.64-14.69
Madrid	1.5931-1.5745	Spain	6.5340-6.5480	Spain	105.85-105.85
Frankfurt	1.5931-1.5745	Portugal	1.6817-1.6827	Switzerland	11.64-11.65
London	1.5931-1.5745				
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Paris	1.5931-1.5745				
Amsterdam	1.59				

15.247 per cent. Spot Silver: \$5.00-5.02 (£3 045-3.060 )

**LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES**

[illegible]

# Ancient sh

THE three huge  
monuments at Fyling  
the north Yorkshire  
are to disappear. In  
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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Our future in the house of the rising sun?

Those who want to be green could soon go one step further – by living in a green house. Nick Nuttall reports on a solar design which cuts emissions of harmful gases and saves on fuel bills

During the next few weeks, tests of a unique home design will bring the reality of a green house closer for the average British family. The home uses solar energy in an active way that suits Britain's minimal exposure to sunlight.

If implemented widely, the system would play a large role in cutting the emission of gases which are the main offenders in global warming and the so-called greenhouse effect.

Industrial engineers with British Steel, British Alcan and Cape Metal Products are to begin final trials on heat "harvesters", in the form of specially designed roof tiles, for a house which uses solar energy to heat rooms and hot water with unprecedented efficiency.

The tests mark the fruition of an idea of architect's team of harnessing solar energy. The architect, Alan Ridett, says: "This design allows you to use the nuclear power station in the sky, which dumps its waste 93 million miles away. When we burn coal or other fossil fuels, we are only releasing locked-up solar energy. With this building we can instead take it directly."

Mr Ridett's building has been called the "endothermic" house. Several large companies are now planning to construct the first 13 endothermic houses at Wootton, on the Isle of Wight, this year. The Cranfield Institute of Technology in Bedfordshire will monitor the project.

The move comes after a favourable assessment of the system by Dr Bruce Denness, former professor of engineering at Newcastle University, and Professor Alex Hardy, former head of building sciences at Newcastle. Their investigation was backed by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

The two scientists, now at the Bureau of Applied Sciences on the Isle of Wight, believe the endothermic building principle is ready for the mass market and "should present no significant manufacturing problems".

More than 80 per cent of a household's energy goes towards heating rooms and hot water, studies have shown.

The DTI-funded report concludes: "This totally benign system offers the promise of achieving major abatement of the greenhouse effect."

Last week, the Watt Committee on Energy, an independent body drawn from 60 professional institutions, met at the Royal Geographical Society, in London, to debate its working party's recommendations on technological solutions to the greenhouse effect.

The findings, to be presented to the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climatic Change later in the year, endorse measures such as the introduction of gas and advanced gas-fuelled power plants and the promotion of renewable energy sources such as wind and tide.

Among the proposals are

plans for greater use of combined heat and power systems in industry and commerce and, in line with policy in other northern European nations, the promotion of public transport and the rail network.

Energy conservation for buildings was identified as one of the most crucial areas Britain needed to investigate if greenhouse gas emissions were to be reduced.

Projects in Britain and abroad have attempted to transform sunlight into electricity either actively, through the development of photo-electric cells or, passively, using special cladding materials on roofs and walls to trap solar energy.

Mr Ridett's design uses an "active" solar collection system. This, he explains, works in reverse to a refrigerator through a heat pump which circulates water around a house. "Instead of heat being pumped out of the back to chill the inside, the heat pump will endeavour to chill the atmosphere and dump energy inside," he says.

The system can operate during the day and night and at temperatures below freezing point. At the heart of the design, which has been patented internationally, is the pump, metallic roof tiles through which water circulates in constrained channels and three variable temperature water stores sunk in the foundations.

Calculations by Dr Denness and Professor Hardy estimate that, for every unit of electricity spent on driving the heat pump on a winter's day, the system delivers five times the energy gained from outside.

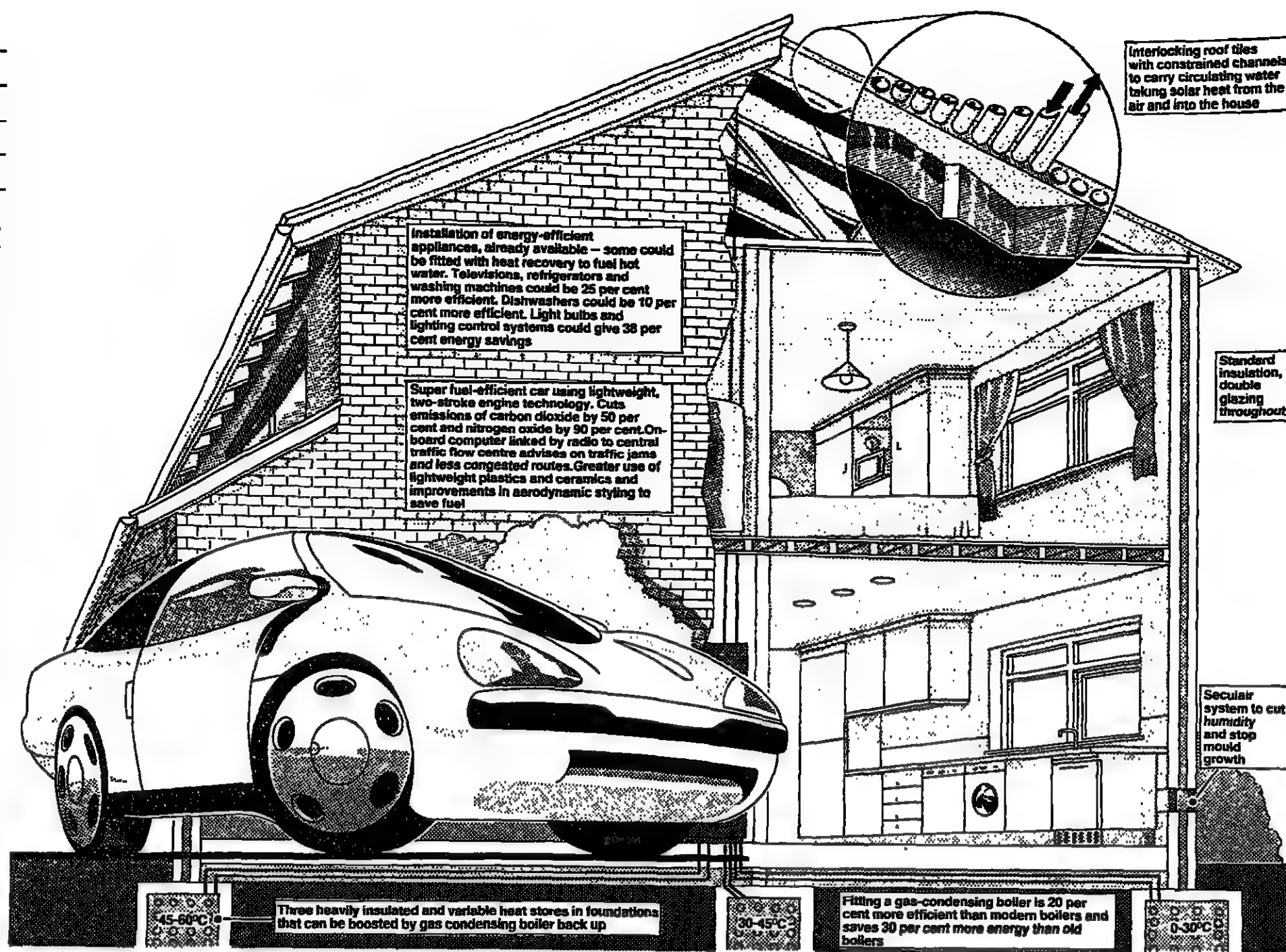
They say this could save a household between 38 and 50 per cent on an annual heating bill. With the cost of building endothermic potential into a home estimated at between £300 and £900, it is calculated that the system will pay for itself between one to three-and-a-half years, sooner in some cases.

Indeed, the returns could take as little as a day with a company in Hong Kong claiming it can provide the necessary technology to add only a few pounds to the cost of a new house.

Dr Denness says commercial buildings and industrial premises will also be able to use the technique. The system meets the objectives of the Watt Committee's working party. The group has tried to identify areas in which Britain can technically and cost-effectively curb its emissions in the near and medium term, rather than contemplating more esoteric and futuristic technology.

The working party has calculated that between eight and more than 11 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, the main offender in the greenhouse effect, could be cut if homes were fitted with loft, wall and water tank insulation as well as double-glazing and draught-proofing.

One drawback to heavily insulating homes, however, is that moisture levels can rise, leading to condensation and mould growth. A solution may lie in a new system,



known as Secular, being installed by Laing Homes and several local authorities, including Gateshead, in Tyne and Wear.

Four vents that use mineral wool are installed in a home's air bricks, alleviating the need for electrical dehumidifiers and the constant emptying of collected water. The system can keep the relative humidity of a home below the critical 70 per cent level even on a cold night, it is claimed. If techniques exist to heavily insulate houses and keep them damp free, costs remain the only real barrier to widespread implementation.

Householders must be encouraged to install new technology by incentives, the Watt Committee believes. "Homes are bought and sold, on average, every eight years. You could consider some kind of energy conservation tax break then," Dr Ken Gregory, a member of the working party, says.

Andrew Warren, director of the independent Association for the Conservation of Energy (ACE), says the public must be made aware of the savings to be had from available technology, particularly in energy-efficient heating systems.

Mr Warren says this need is highlighted by the poor penetration of so-called gas condensing boiler systems, also identified by the Watt Committee as having a crucial role to play in curbing emissions.

According to OFFgas, the Government's gas industry

watchdog, these systems are 20 per cent more efficient than modern boilers and 30 per cent more efficient than older boilers. ACE claims such systems could cut carbon dioxide emissions from each home by up to 1.2 tonnes annually and, with 11.5 million homes in Britain using gas-fired central heating, the benefit to the environment is clear. Yet only one per cent of the estimated 830,000 new boilers installed in Britain each year is of the gas-condensed kind.

Mr Warren says Britain also needs an energy labelling scheme similar to those already operating in the United States and Australia. These give symbols on major electrical goods, such as washing machines and freezers, to indicate how energy efficient they are.

Other suggestions include heat recovery systems on refrigerators for hot water, reducing the temperatures of dishwashers through the use of chemical sterilization and the wider use of lighting control systems for homes and offices.

The committee also identified road transport as a crucial area in the campaign against carbon dioxide emissions. Dr Gregory believes cars and trucks could account for a 10 per cent rise in carbon discharges in Britain by 2005.

The committee believes technical and supply problems will continue to hamper the development of environmentally friendly fuels, including alcohols, hydrogen and gas.

Electric cars, which required the burning of fossil fuels at power stations to charge batteries, were also

considered something of a false hope. However, the committee believes cuts in emissions can be made with improvements in electronic engine-management systems, injection technology and a wider use of lightweight materials.

Fuel-efficient engines were identified as holding the greatest promise, including advanced two-strokes with the potential to cut petrol consumption by between 25 and 30 per cent.

One such engine, the Orbital, was developed by Australian Ralph Sarich in the Seventies. General Motors recently entered mass produc-

tion with a car that uses the system.

The Orbital engine is claimed to reduce by up to 90 per cent the discharges of nitrogen oxide, another offending greenhouse gas, because of the lower operating temperatures of two-strokes. Carbon dioxide emission can also be reduced by up to half.

The Orbital's weight-power rating is at the heart of the improvements. The unit is also claimed to be 25 per cent cheaper to make than a normal four-stroke engine. Several other American and Japanese car companies are also considering two-stroke cars.

The committee says Government policy also has a powerful role to play. Encouraging bus and rail transport and a reduction in motorway speeds from 120kmh to 90kmh would help. The Government could also consider ways of encouraging smaller car engines through legislation and other incentives. In the United States, for example, a manufacturer's model range must average a fixed level of fuel efficiency.

Whether Britain can achieve its avowed intention of stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions by the end of the century remains to be seen.

Clearly, curbing emissions will not only require political will and technical effort, but careful planning. In 1973, the Government decided Britain had no need for the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service and closed its doors just weeks before the oil crisis.

Nevertheless, false economy still happens in the energy enlightened Nineties. Last week, it emerged that a school in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, had been told by the local council to turn up the boilers and open doors and windows. The council had calculated it could get a cheaper rate by burning more gas.

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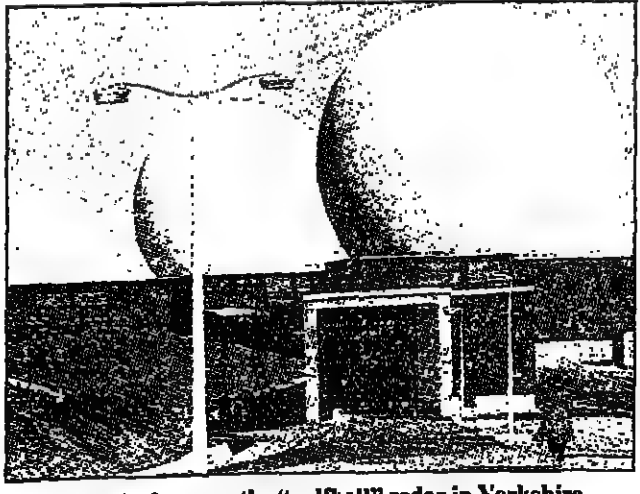
## Ancient shape of new technology

THE three huge "golfball" structures at Fylingdales, on the north Yorkshire moors, are to disappear. In their place will be a vast pyramid of steel and anodized aluminium.

In a rare invitation to the inner sanctum of the site, at the RAF base at Fylingdales, reporters were yesterday shown the start of construction of the new structure. The pyramid is part of a £250 million (£156 million) programme to modernize technology designed 30 years ago.

The 84ft radar dishes, protected from the weather in fireproof and plastic geodesic, or golfball-shaped, radomes, 140ft in diameter and 160ft high, will give way to phased-array radar.

Fylingdales is one of three long-range radar sites that form the United States ballistic missile early warning sys-



Symbol of an era: the "golfball" radar in Yorkshire

tem (BMEWS). The others are at Thule, in Greenland, and Clear, Alaska.

Modernization of the three sites is a contentious issue

between the United States and the Soviet Union because of the possible use of the sites beyond their original tasks if a "Star Wars" conflict ever took place.

With more than 8,500 man-made objects whirling around the Earth, the BMEWS stations have to decide if the sudden appearance of a new object constitutes the launch of a hostile missile.

Inside two of the Fylingdales radomes, radar dishes are swivelling to the east and north, looking 3,000 miles into space. They can detect an object over Moscow the size of a biscuit tin. The third dish, a

tracker, homes in on objects seen in the scan.

Information is continuously fed into a computer system, the missile impact predictor, for identification. The computer compares the incoming data with its records of satellites and articles in orbit. Anything that cannot be identified triggers an alarm.

The BMEWS stations were designed to detect Soviet ICBMs in the trajectory considered most likely 25 years ago, from the north across the Arctic Circle. But sea-launched missiles can now come from any direction.

BMEWS equipment, which takes up to 15 seconds to track the path of a missile, became vulnerable as the volume of junk in space increased and multiple warhead (MIRV) weapons were developed.

The effectiveness of phased-array radar was established 20 years ago, but microelectronics was needed for it to be put into practice.

The limitations of a moving radar aerial are removed by a fixed radar that produces a beam that can, at bewildering speed, scan a 360-degree sphere by electronic steering.

The pyramid faces are composed of small triangles – they form tiny radar aerials that send out pulses.

Pearce Wright

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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY



## Keys to a problem

Efforts to understand and remedy the complaints suffered by increasing numbers of keyboard users are being hampered by generalization and myth, according to a group of British experts who have studied the problem.

The condition known as Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI), linked to the use of desktop computers and terminals, is a serious and sometimes disabling complaint that has led already to individual settlements of more than £40,000.

Brian Pearce, a director of the Human Sciences and Advanced Technology Research Institute, said this week that RSI was "a facile acronym describing a phenomenon rather than a condition".

The institute is part of Loughborough University of Technology, in Leicestershire, and has done extensive research on the problem.

Addressing a conference entitled "Upper Limb Disorders among Keyboard Users", Mr Pearce argued that pressure groups were using the term RSI for a range of problems from specific clinical conditions such as tenosynovitis to cramp.

Mr Pearce also argued that RSI was caused by a complicated range of factors of which the computer hardware was only one. He said a psychological component could be another main factor.

Many keyboard users suffer pain. Is RSI a condition or a myth? Chris Lewis and Matthew May report

"When someone suggests that they are suffering from RSI, they might well be experiencing excruciating pain and discomfort; indeed, there is very little evidence that the sufferers are faking or imagining their symptoms."

"But there is increasingly strong evidence that the causes of their pain and discomfort are not solely the physical aspects of their workplace to which they attribute their disability," he said.

RSI is manifest as varying degrees of discomfort felt in the hands, wrists, shoulders and back. The initial stage is characterized by numbness, pins and needles and sharp pains in the affected joints. If left untreated, the problem can result in long-term paralysis. Until recently, it was difficult to claim industrial injury compensation because many doctors were either unable to recognize the problem or were unwilling to take it seriously.

Some of the blame can be attributed to the computer keyboard itself. The "QWERTY" keyboard layout common to most computers today was the result of mechanical limitations in the design of the typewriter, but it forces the fingers to move inefficiently.

Possibly the most significant claims for compensation have yet to come. In the newspaper industry, for instance, the largest reported incidence has been at the *Financial Times*, where 130 people reported symptoms of RSI in a management survey. Several journalists have been on paid sick leave for more than 18 months — the management says there are nine, the NUJ says there are 20.

Marcus Bezzi is an Australian lawyer specializing in RSI claims at the law firm Stephens Innocent. Mr Bezzi has seen 50 potential plaintiffs this year alone. His firm is acting on behalf of several journalists with NUJ support, and is preparing to issue writs for RSI compensation against several newspapers and a news agency.

Whatever the cause of RSI, the cost of adequate health and safety provision must be built into future computer investment decisions. If the recent trends, both in and out of the courts, continue, the cost of technology may have to be counted, not only in software and hardware, but in compensation too.

## SCIENCE REPORT

## Grape proves a fruitful step

In a computer science there is a tendency to think that bigger problems demand bigger and more expensive computers for their solution. But in today's issue of *Nature* (vol.345, pp. 33-35), Toshikazu Ebisuzaki and colleagues from the University of Tokyo describe a purpose-built computer, called the Grape, that can perform a particularly vexing task as quickly as the world's largest machines but at a fraction of the cost.

At the heart of the group's work lies a perpetual dilemma for computer engineers: the trade-off between versatility and speed. In other words, is it better to build a computer that can do many things well, or one that excels at a single task? Most modern "super-computers", such as the Cray XMP/1, take the first option, and with good reason: they can be used to solve all manner of different problems. But the Grape reveals the advantages of the latter strategy. It can perform the task for which it was designed as quickly as a Cray but for a ten-thousandth of the cost.

Building a machine with only one string to its bow is justified if the problem it solves is particularly tricky. The Grape's specialty is the gravitational N-body problem, which is a particular concern of astrophysicists. It crops up, for example, in studies of the way that galaxies evolve in time. By setting up computer models of galaxies, researchers hope to gain some insight into this evolution.

Some galaxies, for instance, are thought to have been formed by the collision of smaller ones, and by simulating such a col-

lision on the computer, one can discover whether the end result looks anything similar to the objects actually seen through telescopes. But each of the millions of stars in a galaxy exerts a gravitational force on all the others, so calculating the gravitational forces which act on each star places tremendous demands on computers.

On the whole such simulations can be performed using only a few thousand stars per galaxy. Given that our own relatively ordinary galaxy contains about 100,000 million stars, these computer models are not realistic. But the Grape can cope with large numbers of stars because of its ability to perform many calculations in a single step, rather than one at a time.

This is made possible by the way that the circuits are wired, so that several streams of information flow simultaneously down an electronic "pipeline".

(Grape is short for GRAVity Pipe). This is a hardware rather than a software solution: doing the same thing on a regular computer would be impossible without rewiring. There are several other areas of research in which the N-body problem is important. Simulating a lot of stars is not very different from simulating, for instance, a group of atoms moving about in a liquid.

The group points out that their Grape, although purpose-built, can be fairly versatile if joined together in bunches or connected with other machines. In view of which one might be forgiven for describing their approach as fruitful.

Philip Ball

© Nature Times News Service 1990

## A life beyond the ice age

MEASURES are under way to protect a species of tree which endured the ice age 10,000 years ago, only to be threatened by 20th century exploitation of the environment. The species is a survivor which challenges the accepted view that, at the height of the ice age, the arboreal population of Britain was destroyed.

The contradiction to established ideas comes from a new method of biochemical analysis, pioneered by scientists at the Northern Research Station of the Forestry Commission, near Edinburgh.

They have employed the method to unravel the most intimate genealogy of the Scots pine, along with the yew and the common juniper, form Britain's only native conifers.

The originally extensive cover of the Scots pine has been drastically reduced by

## The Scots pine challenges the view that Britain's trees were totally destroyed

various forms of exploitation of land for agriculture and development and by neglect through preference for imported species in commercial forestry.

There are only 40 or so remnants in Scotland, with others planted elsewhere. Yet Ian Forrest, one of the commission's biochemists, sees Scotland's native pine woods as "perhaps the most characteristic and ecologically important type of semi-natural vegetation still in existence in the country".

Measures to protect and restore the remnants have followed a reawakening interest on the part of foresters, conservationists and landowners in preserving these special tree communities. To

avoid further mixing of separate gene pools, and to highlight those woodlands which may contain trees of especially interesting, unusual or useful genetic make-up, the scientists devised a scheme that is analogous to the DNA-fingerprinting technique used in forensic science.

Comparison of the external features of the trees was inadequate. The scientists have been able to compare, instead, the composition of a family of biochemicals found in the resin of trees known as terpenes.

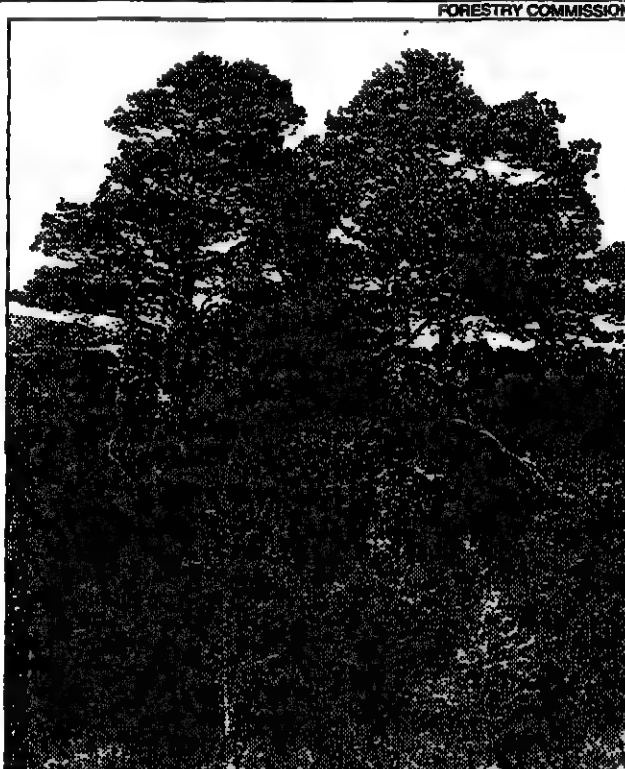
In an outline of the method in *Forest Life*, the commission's occasional publication of advances in forestry, Mr Forrest explained how the trees could be classified into

two distinct races of Scots pine with different histories.

The terpene analysis provided a scheme of dividing Scotland into seven broad regions, according to the type of pine that was the indigenous member. The woodlands group of five regions showed subtle distinctions while sharing overall characteristics, suggesting they originated from Continental sources after the last glacial period.

"Fingerprinting" in the other two regions, one in the north-west and one in the south-west of Scotland, revealed such marked differences that they have been dubbed the "special western group" which may have originated from "refugia" that somehow survived glaciation, later to recolonize the restricted area where they are now found.

Pearce Wright



A survivor: the Scots pine lived through the ice age

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Heart patient hope in drug find

Thomson Prentice on a new therapy which promises safer heart surgery and relief for troubled blood banks

In an operating theatre in a London hospital a few days ago, a middle-aged woman underwent a complex heart operation which should have required transfusions of 10 or more pints of blood.

In fact, she needed only one, due to a remarkable new form of therapy which holds the promise of improved safety for many thousands of patients like her, and which could help reduce the chronic shortages in many of the world's blood banks.

Ken Taylor, of Hammersmith Hospital, in west London, who performed the heart valve replacement operation, will attend an international conference of heart surgeons on Saturday to deliver the results of more than 600 such operations using aprotinin, a drug that is helping make transfusions redundant.

Two years ago, Professor Taylor, the British Heart Foundation's professor of cardiac surgery at Hammersmith, and David Royston, a consultant anaesthetist now at Harfield Hospital, Middlesbrough, discovered, by chance, the astonishing ability of the drug to prevent excessive post-operative bleeding by high-risk heart patients.

Aprotinin had been used routinely for at least 30 years to treat acute inflammation of the pancreas. Professor Taylor and Dr Royston were trying to find whether it could also reduce lung inflammation in patients who were on a heart-lung bypass machine during cardiac operations.

"We suddenly realized that the patients coming off the machine towards the end of the operation did not bleed as much as might have been expected," Dr Royston says. "We did not understand why, until we found it was only true of patients who had been given aprotinin."

After a coronary bypass, particularly if it is a repeat operation, patients can lose six or more pints of blood. But aprotinin has meant that transfusions are now seldom necessary in such cases.

Clinical trials of the drug in Britain, West Germany and the Netherlands show that less than a



Matter of heart: Professor Ken Taylor will deliver his findings on aprotinin, based on more than 600 operations, to an international conference

quarter of patients have needed to be given blood, and in much smaller quantities than those undergoing the same operations without aprotinin.

The results showed no significant side-effects and have been so impressive that the drug is now used in about 65 per cent of all open-heart surgery in West Germany.

American surgeons are testing it in similar operations, while in Britain its use has been extended on a trial basis to a small number of heart transplants, and to cardiac surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children, in Great Ormond Street, London.

Professor Taylor will present the latest evidence during the American Association for Thoracic Surgery conference, which begins in Toronto on Sunday. He will show delegates a film of two identical bypass operations he carried out

recently at Hammersmith Hospital. One patient, who was not given aprotinin, lost almost three times as much blood as another who was given it, and needed two pints of blood after an operation which, due to bleeding problems, took 28 minutes longer. The patient given aprotinin needed no transfusion.

"Our experience in Britain and from other European hospitals confirms quite clearly the efficacy of the drug," Professor Taylor says. "It allows the majority of these high-risk patients to undertake surgery without even a single unit of transfused blood."

"I have no doubt that it has meant survival, and a good surgical result, for some patients who might not otherwise have survived the operation."

Impressive though the results have been, there is a big gap in the aprotinin story: nobody, including

Professor Taylor and Dr Royston, can explain exactly how it works.

They believe that when a patient's blood passes through a heart-lung machine during cardiac surgery, changes occur in the blood platelets which impair natural clotting processes and thus make excessive bleeding more likely. Aprotinin, which is infused into the patient throughout the operation, is supplied simultaneously to the machine, and appears to protect the platelets.

"It's still a bit of a mystery," Professor Taylor says. "A lot of research is going into understanding the precise mechanism of action. But we feel we know enough to be sure that we are not taking a leap into the dark."

The Department of Health has not licensed the drug for general use in cardiac surgery, and until it has weighed up all the evidence,

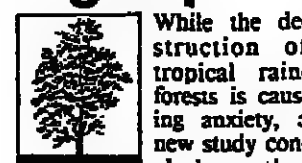
aprotinin is available only on a restricted, "named-patient" basis. The same is true in the United States, where the Food and Drug Administration is also studying the results of clinical trials.

However, it seems likely that, sooner rather than later, the drug will be much more widely used. If so, Professor Taylor acknowledges, it could play an important role in reducing the need for transfusions in other types of surgery, and thereby further help preserve precious stocks of donor blood.

"These are particularly difficult days for the transfusion services because demand constantly exceeds supply. In addition there is the need for rigorous screening of blood donations against the viruses which cause AIDS and hepatitis," he says.

"The use of aprotinin in cardiac operations does offer a major contribution to blood conservation."

## Tree study urges plan



While the destruction of tropical rainforests is causing anxiety, a new study concludes that drastic changes are also needed in forestry practice in Europe to protect the climate. An investigation by the 16-nation International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, based in Vienna, recommends a major overhaul in silviculture for economic as well as ecological reasons. Professor Sten Nilsson, principal investigator of the institute's forest study, says that the level of destruction shows that more controls are needed over the emission of pollutants which are killing trees across Europe. Recommendations from the investigation, to be published soon in a three-volume set, include conversion of agricultural land and pasture to silviculture and rehabilitation of damaged forests. If implemented, land area devoted to forests would increase by 5 per cent over the next 30 years.

## Fusion power

A small scale "cold fusion" power plant could be built at the University of Utah by the end of the year, according to James Brophy, the vice president of the research institute which was formed at the university to study the process. About a year ago, chemists Stanley Pons and Martin Fleischmann claimed to have achieved nuclear fusion at room temperature. There have since been dozens of attempts to reproduce the experiment, without success. "Pons and Fleischmann have hopes of building a 100-watt power plant by the end of the year that they can turn on and off at will," Mr Brophy said. "I think they might be a little premature [regarding the timing], but I'm not going to criticize them."

## Aids agent

Scientists have discovered a new agent with potent medicinal properties which, in laboratory experiments, stops the proliferation of the AIDS virus in heavily infected cell cultures. The agent's mechanism differs from the available treatments to halt the spread of the human immuno-

## BRIEFING

deficiency virus (HIV) and also avoids their side-effects, according to the report in the latest issue of *Science*. The compound is based on an enzyme called protease, which is essential for the formation of the virus from simple molecules produced by the infected cell. The advance involves a university and industry collaboration between the British research laboratories of the Roche drug firm, St Mary's Hospital Medical School, in London, University of Wales College, in Cardiff, and the Medical Research Council Collaborative Centre, in London.

## Home work?

IBM is preparing a home computer for launch this summer according to the American magazine, *PC Week*. The company first tried to sell such a machine in 1984 with little success and since then has concentrated exclusively on its business customers. The company refused to comment on the magazine report which predicted the launch of an £800 machine with hard disc, modem and software. Both the price and software mentioned indicate the computer would be aimed more at the those requiring a "home" computer for work rather than the new breed of entertainment machines reviving the computer games market.

## Turtle link clue

A study of human-sized turtles suggests that dinosaurs were able to regulate their body temperatures in warm and cool climates in much the same way as large mammals. Two researchers from Drexel University in Philadelphia reported in the journal *Nature* that the physiology of the reptilian leatherback turtles may explain how dinosaurs were able to survive in warm and icy conditions more than 65 million years ago. Reptilian leatherbacks are able to withstand freezing water because of their sheer size and by regulating their blood flow to conserve energy, the scientists said. "Because of their large body size, dinosaurs were able to use their bulk as insulation and as a counter-current heat exchanger," James Spillia, a physiologist, claimed.

Matthew May

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

Continued on next page

## Director



The British Industrial Biological Research Association is seeking a suitable candidate for appointment as Director and Chief Executive upon the retirement of Dr S. D. Gangoli early in 1991.

Founded in 1960 to carry out toxicological research primarily for the food industry and Government, the Association now extends its remit to include the pharmaceutical, chemical and related industries. BIBRA undertakes conventional toxicity studies together with more fundamental research in safety evaluation for its industrial and Government customers. It also provides information and consultancy services, including toxicological risk assessments on specific substances for its members and regulatory authorities internationally.

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Applications including a full curriculum vitae, which will be treated in strictest confidence, should be addressed to the Chairman of BIBRA Council, Dr F. A. Fairweather, c/o Unilever House, Blackfriars, London EC4P 4BQ. The closing date for applications will be 20 July 1990.

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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Ringing in the changes

Despite a massive publicity campaign and British Telecom's best efforts, sceptics believe the change-over of London's telephone dialling codes on Sunday will be far from smooth.

The system BT has set up to deal with anticipated misdialled calls using the old 01 prefix after May 6 can cope with only about 50,000 calls a minute. The actual number is likely to be much higher.

BT is estimated to have spent £30 million on the change-over to the new 071 and 081 prefixes. The change, which will affect 4.5 million subscribers, is needed because BT is running out of telephone numbers.

The same problem is happening across the world. Other major cities in Europe, Asia and North America have changed their numbering systems in recent years with many more expected to follow suit.

BT is estimated to have spent £10 million on the public awareness campaign alone. This included writing to all BT subscribers informing them of the change - twice, the printing of some 75 million leaflets including versions in Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Mandarin, Punjabi and Urdu for Britain's ethnic minorities and in French, German, Italian and Spanish for the many tourists.

Another £20 million was set aside for technical and organizational preparations. About 750 exchanges, both inside and outside of London,

**London dialling codes change this weekend. Will it be a case of 'Dial 01 for Mayhem'? Peter Purton reports**

had to be modified to cope with the change-over. For the latest generation of electronic exchanges, the conversion work has been relatively simple, involving slight modifications to the computer software. But for the earlier generation of electronic exchanges which are used extensively in the London area, the effort has been considerably more. Some exchanges have required 5,000 hours of labour.

Co-operation with foreign telephone companies means 80 per cent of misdialled calls

ment system has been designed to cope with up to 50,000 misdialled calls a minute - but this figure is only about one third of usual peak traffic. Experience from abroad has shown that up to 40 per cent of calls may still be misdialled three months after the change-over. If the number of misdialled calls exceeds 50,000, callers will get an engaged tone.

BT admits there is concern about possible congestion. "People will get frustrated with getting it wrong and will adapt. Machines pose greater

**'People will get frustrated with getting it wrong and will adapt. Machines pose greater problems - they can't respond to the recorded announcement'**

directed at London from abroad should be trapped before leaving their country of origin. Foreign callers can then be told about the new codes in their own languages.

There is still widespread concern that BT's efforts may not be enough. Calls after May 6 using the 01 codes will automatically be redirected to an exchange where a recorded announcement will tell the caller the new code.

The recorded announce-

problems: they can't respond to the recorded announcement," Eric Barr, a British Telecom spokesman, says.

As many as half-a-million telephones and other terminals, such as fax machines, computers or autodialling burglar alarms, connected to BT's London network are estimated to have pre-programmed numbers. There could be as many as five million numbers which need to be changed.

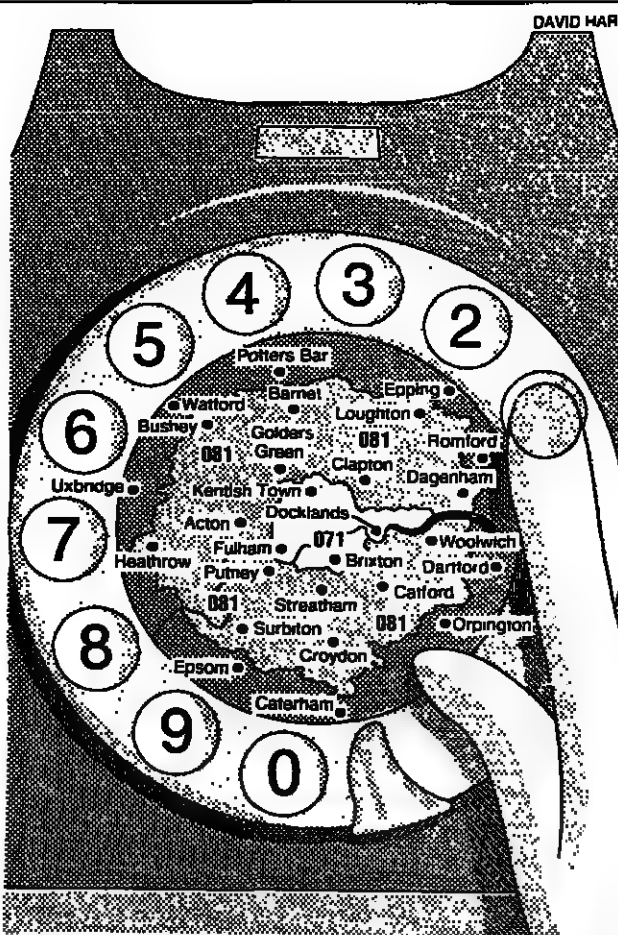
Critics say the new system will cause mayhem as subscribers wrestle with the logic of the boundaries. A subscriber in Holland Park might need to dial 10 digits to reach someone over the road, but only eight digits to reach someone in a more remote area.

A common criticism has been of BT's choice of sudden cut-off date. In many other countries, the new and old systems have been run together for some time before the old one is phased out. This, in theory, allows subscribers to grow used to the new numbers.

Mr Barr says BT considered all alternatives and canvassed subscribers before selecting its method. "We looked at operating both numbers together, but decided not to go down that route."

"Hong Kong, which changed its numbering system at the beginning of the year, allowed both systems to operate side by side, but their experience showed that customers just did not adapt to the new system if the old one was still available. After three months, old system calls still accounted for 40 per cent of calls. Market research has shown that the vast majority preferred to change all at once rather than the graduated approach."

Mr Barr says the adopted split-code method also has significant advantages. "It leaves the customer's local number unchanged and, importantly, it allows us to trap misdialled calls and provide recorded announcements."



But it is in the area of computerized telephone dialling aids or lists where the most activity has been generated. Offers of help range from computer programs which will adapt a computer system at a cost of up to tens of thousands of pounds, to free programs (and even a "do-it-yourself program" listing in computer magazines) issued by software houses with established products containing telephone numbers, such as autodiallers or data bases.

While most telephone terminal owners who fail to reprogram their equipment will suffer from the change-over, a few will profit.

Users of private payphones in London wanting to call numbers in the "other" area, may find that these calls will cost more because many are automatically programmed to charge a higher rate when presented with a zero at the start. Some owners may not bother to reprogram them.

## JOBSCENE

## Lures of kiwi fruit and cheap houses

**New Zealand's IT companies are in a race against time to convince British staff to emigrate**

New Zealand is beckoning British information technology staff with promises of an idyllic lifestyle. Down Under, people thinking of emigrating should act quickly because New Zealand's immigration rules will soon be tightened in line with Australia's system.

Australia operates a points system which favours those under 35 who are highly skilled. New Zealand has a much more flexible system, but has said that it will be amended this year.

At present, it is possible to enter New Zealand as a tourist and look for employment. The tourist visa can then be upgraded to a work permit if the applicant's skills are on an occupational priority list.

The list includes computer programmers and analysts with experience of business systems. Joan Wilshire, the chief migration officer for the New Zealand High Commission, says:

"There are shortages of medium and highly experienced computer staff with a commercial background. But there is no shortage of computer staff in the military or scientific areas," she says.

Most countries will not allow tourists to change their status within a country, but require would-be immigrants to apply from their country of origin. Once the points system is introduced, New Zealand will be in line with most other countries.

The planned revisions explain why some New Zealand firms are encouraging British IT staff to make the move.

Air New Zealand (ANZ) and Telecom New Zealand (TNZ) are holding interviews in London later this month, and both emphasize the lifestyle their staff enjoy.

ANZ is developing an airline reservation system and is looking for programmers and

project leaders with at least 18 months' experience of IBM's transaction software.

TNZ is seeking British data base administrators and information business consultants to work in Hamilton, known as the "Garden City".

The job details read like a travel brochure: "The offices are located in the North Island, two hours from ski fields, an hour from the beaches, one-and-a-half hours from metropolitan Auckland, in a peaceful rural and picturesque setting on New Zealand's best trout fishing river, the Waikato."

New Zealand, like most countries, suffers from a shortage of skilled professionals. But the situation is made worse because the country is small and has limited career opportunities. Many of its IT staff emigrate to Australia or live in Europe or the United States for a few years.

Because of its size and isolation, New Zealand finds it more difficult than other countries to recruit skilled foreign staff. James Watts, managing director of the Essex-based Hamilton Watts recruitment agency (0378 73777), which has offices in Auckland and Wellington, says: "It is a rugged and rural lifestyle which some may find too quiet compared to Britain, but it suits those who enjoy the outdoor life. Property is cheap and a spectacular house costs about £50,000."

He says that those British people who emigrate to New Zealand are older and have "had enough of the rat race". They are also in a position to cash in their house equity in the UK and take advantage of the lower prices in New Zealand. Others emigrate as a way of gaining "back door" entry to Australia.

"It is much easier for someone with a New Zealand passport to emigrate to Australia," Mr Watts says. Most companies are seeking IT staff with IBM experience and telecommunications and networking experts. Salaries are about 10 to 15 per cent less than in Australia, but are offset by a lower cost of living.

Leslie Tilley

A costly disappointment in a big project has failed to deter the Japanese in their quest for world computing dominance

Japan hopes a computer technology, known as massively parallel processing, will earn it a place in computing to match its reputation in consumer electronics and semiconductors.

The decision to embark on a new project, announced in a report from the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry, will give people in the computer industry a feeling of déjà vu.

Nine years ago, Japan announced a far-reaching and ambitious project, known as the "fifth generation", to de-

## Japan turns on computer speed

velop "thinking" computers which would begin to mimic the working of the human brain and provide the country with a lead in the field by the Nineties.

The project has had limited success, and despite expenditure of hundreds of millions of pounds, has failed to produce machines that can make human-like inferences, enabling people to communicate with them using ordinary language.

Parallel processing is a technique that makes computation far faster by using thousands of processors simultaneously. It improves areas such as image recognition and language translation, where computers are still clumsy. "The level of picture recognition, sound recognition and character recognition of a computer is still far from that of a human being," the ministry report says.

Computers using parallel processing are already being developed by several American and Japanese companies, and the fifth-generation project itself has a prototype using 64 processors. But the Japanese government envisages systems that will use millions of processors simultaneously and will require the development of highly complex software - an area in which Japan is not particularly advanced.

In a computer that uses millions of processors at any one time, some will inevitably be broken; the machines will have to be able to identify failed processors and work around them.

"In order to make possible the high-speed execution of complex information-processing," the report concludes, "the development of architectures for massively parallel processing is indispensable."

When plans for the fifth generation project were an-

nounced, researchers in Europe and the United States warned that Japan looked set to take the lead in yet another area of technology: European and American research programmes were established as a result.

Although the project shows little sign of producing an intelligent computer, it has brought thousands of Japanese computer scientists up to date with the latest techniques. They are now better prepared for the start of this project than they were for its predecessor.

Matthew May

Continued From Previous Page

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY



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Jenny MacArthur examines the spell Badminton casts upon the most durable of competitors

# Patient Clarke deserves reward

"BADMINTON is like a drug, you hate it but you can't do without it," Lorna Clarke knows its effect better than most. At the age of 46, the durable Scot has completed the world's toughest three-day event course 21 times on 14 different horses and remains the only woman to have ridden three horses round in the same year (1970). Surprisingly, for someone who has won Burghley twice and a clutch of European and world championship medals, she has yet to finish in the top three.

This week could well put the record straight. Clarke is riding Fearlath Mor, the brilliant little Irish-bred gelding on which she won a team gold and individual bronze medal at last year's European championships. This spring he has won each of his three preparation trials for Badminton: Glencoe, Belton, and Witton Castle.

It is an impressive record for a horse dismissed as "a little runt" when Clarke first saw him five years ago. "He looked nothing more than a lesser riding school nag," she recalled. Only her limited resources — she had no sponsor — and the urgent need for a horse persuaded her to try him. That proved only marginally more inspiring. "He ran away with me... but I felt he had a sense of self-preservation which I liked."

What he lacked was a sense of discipline. Though an outstanding performer across country, he was almost impossible to train in the dressage arena. "He was unbelievable," Clarke said. "If I asked him to do something and he didn't want to he would just rear up." At Badminton in 1988, three years after she had bought him, he was 49th out of 56 after the dressage. In the cross country he was one of only five to go clear within the time. "That made me determined to persevere with him," Clarke said. "Anyway, I couldn't have sold him because nobody would have bought him and I'm too Scottish to have thought of giving him away."

The breakthrough, after four years of "hammering away," came last year. Fearlath Mor, at the age 12, finally matured mentally to the point where he could take discipline. Clarke then sought help with his training from the Olympic dressage rider, Christopher Bartle, and from Jeremy and Angela Hamp, who are now part-owners of the horse.

There was no overnight transformation — merely a willingness to learn. Gradually, the horse's "pony" stride, lengthened, his test became obedient and relaxed and the marks improved. At Glencoe and Witton Castle, he led the field after the dressage. "But don't go saying he's going to win Badminton," Clarke said, when reminded of this feat. "Apart from the opposition at Badminton the atmosphere there could easily make him behave like a brat again."

If he goes well, he will be in line for a place in the team for the world championships in Stockholm in July — though Clarke is reluctant to entertain



Surviving a test of nerve: Clarke and Fearlath Mor take the steep drop at the Normandy Bank in their stride at Badminton two years ago



Clarke: still enthusiastic

build as big but, so far, Hugh has kept up the standard." (Hugh Thomas replaced Weldon as director and course designer at Badminton last year.)

Her preparations for this week are refreshingly simple. "A last gallop?" she said in answer to a question on training procedures. "Oh, I'll probably shoot up a hill on Sunday before I leave." She trains on the Duke of Buccleuch's nearby estate in Dumfries.

Unlike most of her fellow competitors, she has no permanent groom. "What's the point — they don't wash the dishes — and I can do the housework. This week is an exception. While her mother

Monica, her staunchest supporter, moves to Dumfries to help with the dishes and Roddy, aged 11, Clarke will employ Ian Barham as groom. "He's been with me at all the championships for the last five years and knows exactly how much pressure to put on me to make me produce my best."

Whatever the pressure this week, it is unlikely to equal that of 1967 when Clarke, riding Nicholas Nickleby, competed in her first Badminton. It was also her first three-day event and she was drawn to go first across country. Menorably, they finished eighth in what Clarke still refers to as her "happiest Badminton."

Most of her fellow riders of that year — Richard Meade and Mary Gordon-Watson to name two — have long since retired. Clarke dismisses such thoughts. Her nerve, which has survived a fair share of falls including a broken leg at Badminton in 1980, remains unimpaired. Her enthusiasm is undimmed. "I'll continue as long as Fearlath Mor does. I call him 'super run' now. He's a machine — there's no other horse I'd like to ride at Badminton." For most of the sport's aficionados there is no other rider they would rather see win the Whitbread Trophy on Sunday.

## Chances for Leng rest with Griffin

By Jenny MacArthur

WITH the world championships in Stockholm 11 weeks away, the Whitbread Championships at Badminton, which begin today, have attracted one of the most competitive fields in recent years. Riders from nine countries are competing, including Mark Todd, from New Zealand, the double Olympic gold medal winner, and Bruce Davidson, from the United States, a double world champion.

Virginia Leng, the world champion, head of the strong British entry, but for once she is not expected to win. With Master Craftsman, on which she won Badminton last year, recovering from an injury, Leng is planning her chances on the 10-year-old Griffin, who is competing in his first Badminton.

For Jan Stark, who has been with Leng in every championship team since 1984, the pressure this week will be greater than ever. His three-month suspension for an alleged misuse of the pain-killing drug, Butazolidin, is to start this time, but has not yet been reduced in the suspension — which would enable him to compete at Stockholm — has succeeded.

Rodney Powell, with The Irishman, and Lorna Clarke,

with Fearlath Mor, who were with Leng and Stark in the European gold medal-winning team last year, will be quick to take advantage of any mistakes by their colleagues. Behind these four are a handful of leading competitors all with Stockholm in their sights.

Chief among them are Mary Thomson, with King Boris, the runners-up last year, and Karen Straker with Gel Smart. Straker was a member of the silver medal-winning team in Seoul in 1988 but was then left out of the team for the European Championships last year. Competing, instead, as an individual she finished fourth at those championships. Another good performance this week would make it hard for the selectors to discount her again.

The going for the cross-country on Saturday will be firm but the thick covering of grass on Badminton's old turf helps retain a spring in the ground. The course is slightly shorter this year because of the proximity of the World Championships but the 28 fences are no less challenging. One of the most difficult is The Quarry, fence 22, where riders have to ask their horse to jump over a rail "into space" — thus testing the mutual trust between horse and rider to the limit.

## Swelling numbers give new depth to welcome boom

JOHN WATSON previews the season

BRITISH polo strengthened throughout the 1980s and has now reached an all-time high in quantity, if not in quality. Twenty-three clubs are affiliated to the Hurlingham Polo Association, with another three undergoing their probationary year before membership.

The handicap lists comprise well over 900 players, a post-war record, while Pony Club polo, the seedbed of the game in this country, boasts nearly 300 more (70 teams will enter the subsidiary Pony Club tournaments this summer, and 52 of them will qualify for the championships at Cowdray Park between August 10 and 12).

The relaxation last year of the embargo on Argentinian players, which lasted six years after the Falklands War, gave a boost to the game in England. As many as 20 teams entered the British Open championships for the Davidoff Gold Cup in 1989, and spectators were entertained to some spectacular play. This summer, the British Open, which is to be contested in four leagues during the first three weeks of July (with the finals over the weekend of July 21-22) has attracted a record 27 entries.

Anthony Embrocio's squad, Tramontana, which has won the Open for the past four years, has been forced to change its lineup. David Jamison, Embrocio's co-patron, had his handicap raised to four last summer which would have put Tramontana's aggregate team handicap up to 23, one point above the top limit for British high-goal polo — 50, which Jamison has joined his former colleague, John Youman, in the Southfield squad. Tramontana have enrolled Justin Gaunt (handicap two), Southfield and Tramontana's own, Cowdray Park teams, each have one of the 10-goal Mexican Gracida brothers in their pivot positions, Memo (Southfield) and Carlos (Tramontana).

Other high-goal front-runners are likely to be (from the Guards Club), Geoffrey Kent's Windsor Park, pivoted on Hector Galindo and for whom the Prince of Wales plays back, and the Maple Leaf, the team of the Canadian, Caleb Weston, who have Rob Walton, of the United States, and the eight-goal Julian Hipwood, of Britain, as their central pairing; (from the Royal Berkshire Club), Hilson, whose strongest man is Julian Hipwood's brother, Howard, (handicap nine), and Peter Scott's Pendell; (from Cirencester Park), the Black Bears, fielding the American back, Mike Dazman, and Dale Smickles; (from Cowdray Park), Kerry Packer's two entries: Ellerton White, based on the two Argentinians, Tancore and Gonzalo Pires; Ellerton Black, the Stuart Mackenzie, of New Zealand, and the All England player, Alan Kent, at their

centre; and the 22-goal home team, Cowdray Park, captained by Paul Withers.

The mettle of the 22 British Open entries will have been well and truly tested before the end of June in the customary early tournaments at high and medium goal levels. (The medium-goal top team aggregate handicap threshold has, incidentally, been raised from 15 to 16). The tournaments, for the Guards Club, Queen's Cup, and the Royal Berkshire's BMW Trophy, are being run in tandem between May 18 and June 10. The medium-goal Royal Windsor Cup will be played off at Smith's Lawn between June 3 and 24, while Cirencester Park's high-goal Warwickshire tournament is to be staged between June 12 and July 1.

The most popular event of the season, Cartier International Day, is scheduled for Sunday, July 29 at Smith's Lawn, Windsor Great Park. This time, the Coronation Cup will go to the winners of a match between a French quartet (perhaps composed of Luis Tani, the Macaire brothers and the francophile, Santiago Gastambide) and an English side of comparable hands.

That challenge will be followed by the tussle for the Silver Jubilee Cup between a team chosen by the Hurlingham Association and one put together by the Prince of Wales. Since the Guards Club will be extending their seating capacity, upwards of 20,000 spectators are expected to witness these exciting encounters.

The preliminary rounds for the three great Goodwood Week tournaments start on July 23, leading up to the finals of the high-goal Cowdray Park Challenge Cup and the medium-goal Holden White on August 3 and the medium-goal Harrison the next day. Those are followed by Cirencester Park's national 16-goal championship for the County Cup (August 7-19) and the Guards Club's medium-goal autumn league tournament (September 4-16), for which there is a new sponsor in the corporate finance company, Arrows.

Players' conduct and the inaptitude of umpires have come under increased criticism lately. Abuse of ponies — unethical use of whip and spur, misuse of drugs and poor physical condition — is one subject and fouling another. There is a strong determination within both the Hurlingham Polo Association and the clubs to see a marked decrease this summer in the practices of appealing for fouls, playing for fouls and arguing with umpires. Increasingly bad behaviour by players demands increasingly tight discipline.

## GUIDE TO THE CLUBS

COWDRAY PARK: Michael, Sussex (tel 0272). Seven match games. Principle tournaments: Tascos trophy, May 7-20; West of England Cup, May 18-20; British Open championships, June 3-24; Goodwood week tournaments, July 23-August 3. 100 playing members. 600 non-playing. Admission: £2-10 per day. June 30-August 6: £15 on July 12. Manager: Roger Arner (Sussex) (tel 0750 613 257).

ELLERTON WHITE: Southfield Park (tel 0203). 10 match games, stands on three main grounds. Principle tournaments: Ables trophy, July 16; Queen's Cup, May 22-24; Royal Windsor Cup, July 24-26; Hurlingham Polo Association Cup, July 29; Autumn tournament, September 4-16. 140 playing members. 1,200 non-playing. Admission: £10 per day. Manager: Colin Robert French (Sussex) (tel 0784 434 212).

GUARDS CLUB: Hurlingham Polo Association (tel 0419). Eight match games. Principle tournaments: Warwickshire Cup, June 12-24; National 16-goal championship (county cup) August 7-19; Chatterhall Cup, August 21-23. 100 playing members. 650 non-playing. Admission: £2-10. Manager: Major Ronald Scott (tel 0255 655 225).

ROYAL BERSKIRE: North Street, Weymouth (tel 01302). Six match games. Principle tournaments: BMW Fifth of June trophy, May 18-20; British Open tournament, June 15-24. 95 playing members. 20 non-playing. Admission: as set on day. Manager: Michael Arner (tel 0204 88222).

HARK: Peverell Road, Richmond, Surrey. Hark tournament, June 25-July 1. 12 playing members. 175 non-playing. Admission: £5 per day. Manager: Mrs Peggy Healy (tel 01 840 8455).

TOWORTH: At Toworth Camp, Hampshire. Principle tournaments: P. C. Laurent Perrier United Services Cup, August 28. Admission: £2-25 per day. Polo ground: Cadden Rd, Toworth, Hampshire (tel 0980 48221 extension 2287).

WINDSOR PARK: (tel 0408). Oxfordshire. 10 match games. Principle tournaments: Hurlingham Polo Association Cup, June 25-July 1. 50 playing members. 200 non-playing. Admission: £2 per day. 100 non-playing. Manager: Al Murray (tel 0185 50777).

WINDSOR PARK: New Park, Brockenhurst, Hampshire. Hurlingham Polo Association Cup, August 18-19. 85 playing members. 165 non-playing. Admission: £2-25. Polo manager: David Turner (tel 0425 472 485).

## SPORTS LETTERS

### Time to put teeth into the laws

From Mr Elmore Dixon  
Sir, I am a Jamaican living in Miami where people from the Caribbean play a lot of cricket. I am again appalled at the disgusting lack of sportsmanship by the West Indies team, and the crude behaviour of Richards and Haynes. Also, the baying of the crowd and the glee that greeted Smith's injury was a disgrace.

How much longer are you English people going to sit and bowlers hour by hour, who fail to meet the over-per-hour requirement. Eject any bowler

Put some teeth into the laws, as tennis did. Remove all bowlers, hour by hour, who fail to meet the over-per-hour requirement. Eject any bowler

### Hospitals rethink

From Mr Peter F. Bates  
Sir, Having attended this season's Hospitals Cup rugby final, it occurs to me that the thinking behind the reorganisation of the medical schools' teams goes along the following lines:

It has unfortunately been difficult in recent years for several of the medical schools to raise a strong team. Although there has been some combination of medical schools, e.g. UCH-Middlesex, Charing Cross-Westminster, recent results have made it obvious that

further reorganisation is urgently required.

In the very near future, it would appear that a combination of The London and Bart's and the addition of Royal Free to UCH-Middlesex would produce more consistent opposition. However, to complete the reorganisation it would appear logical to group them into south of the Thames, consisting of St Thomas's, Guy's, George's, King's, and north of the Thames, consisting of Bart's, London, UCH, Middlesex, Royal Free and Charing Cross.

These two teams would then play each other for the right to appear in the challenge match against the remaining medical school, St Mary's Hospital. The result of this reorganisation would successfully reduce the number of medical schools to a more rational number, and at the same time ensure that St Mary's had at least one good match each season against medical school opposition.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER F. BATES,  
144 Harker Street, W1.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 01-782 5046

### Enigmatic message

From Dr David Lowry  
Sir, What, if anything, should we conclude from the published attendances at the three football matches played in London, Glasgow and Dublin respectively on April 25, involving England, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland in preparation games for the approaching World Cup, each against eastern European teams?

The combined total of the attendances at Wembley and Hampden Park, two citadels of football, was 43,230, whereas 43,990 watched the Irish Republic defeat the Soviet Union at a rugby stadium in Dublin.

The population of the Irish Republic is just over 3.5 million people. The population of England and Scotland is close to 52 million.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID LOWRY,  
9 Braunston, Woughton Park, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

### Who is to blame?

From Mr J.H. McGuinness  
Sir, Travelling on the ferry from Santander to Plymouth last week, I fell in with a small party of Welsh people. Naturally, the game of rugby was high on the agenda and the question was asked: "Who is to blame for the decline of Welsh rugby?"

One member of the group asserted: "It is all the fault of Shirley Williams. She destroyed the grammar schools of south Wales and they had always produced the trained recruits for the clubs. Now nobody produces them."

Perhaps politicians should take note of the statement and, in future, consider what might be the wider implications of their doctrinaire legislation.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES MCGUINNESS,  
Pen-y-Bont Fach, Cynwyd, Cwneyd, Cwneyd.

### A truly memorable day out

From Mr David Taylor  
Sir, I moved from my home town nearly 20 years ago. However, there's only ever been one result that I looked for on Saturday evening. Usually my team lost, but something happened this year — they started winning. Not only that, they actually reached a cup final.

I'm not a regular football enthusiast. In fact, it's something I try to keep clear of. The game seems to have acquired a very bad reputation.

However, having been born and bred within cheering distance of the ground, I felt determined to make the journey to Wembley. This could be the first and only chance I would have to support my team in a final.

Members of my family, back home, acquired the necessary ticket and I made a journey down the M1 somewhat shorter than that made by my fellow supporters.

Every other club seemed to have reds or blues hanging out of the windows, waving and shouting greetings to every other supporter, whatever their loyalties. It didn't seem to be like I had been led to expect. It was like one big family on a day out.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID TAYLOR,  
27 Beech Close, Towcester, Northamptonshire.

### Poor value

From Mr Peter Whittlesea  
Sir, I feel resentment that in the forthcoming Wimbledon tennis championships the female contestants will receive prize-money not very far short of that paid the male contestants (report, April 19). Except for the few who consistently dominate, both the standards and the duration of many matches is half an hour over two sets give poor value for the high costs of seats. In contrast, most of the drama and thrills of the game are provided by the men of whom many are serious challengers to holders of championships.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER WHITTLESEA,  
124 Southlands, Swaffham, Norfolk.

### Sympathy deserved

From Mr Peter F. Portwood  
Sir, May a mere merchant question your snooker correspondent, Steve Acton? He reported (early editions, April 28) that Hendry missed "potable reds". Should this not have been "portable"? (Lacking a Latin derivation, one has no guide as to the greater correctness of "able" or "ible").

If Mr Hendry was really missing "potable" reds — a condition with which I would heartily sympathise — I should recommend Cahors, Fitou or Cotes du Ventoux.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER F. PORTWOOD,  
Pennycook and Portwood, Little Newham, Newham, Truro, Cornwall.

## SQUASH RACKETS

### England juniors step into spotlight

From Colin McQuillan, Zurich

THE England women face their sternest test for some considerable time today at the Vitus Centre in Schlitter, near here, when a largely junior women's squad faces full-strength challenges — from Ireland, Netherlands and Finland.

The England men's squad comes straight from the top of the national rankings and should succeed, but the leading six English women are in Hong Kong for the lucrative Stretch Challenge tournament.

The England women will be led in Switzerland by Sue Wright, aged 19, who is ranked seventh in England and fifth in the world. Her support will come from the junior world champion, Donna Vardy, the European junior champion.

Cassandra Jackson, and Samantha Langley.

Ireland will travel to Zurich with Rebecca Best, the world No. 11, who sees more chance of gaining victory over the old enemy than taking the prize money in Hong Kong, backed by an experienced squad used to finishing second to England in this competition.

Netherlands, one of the burgeoning squash nations, will be at full strength, with Balsem Hogendoorn, the world No. 14, at first string, Finland, led by Tuula Myllymaki and Nina Taimiaho, are also a strong squad of women who never stop running.

Sabine Schoene, of Germany, who is at odds with her national association, will play in Hong Kong, but her erstwhile col-

leagues are still capable of launching a serious attempt to bring a European title for the first time to a country now thought to have the most squash players in the world, at over three million.

In the first-round pool competitions, the England men are matched against Germany, Netherlands and Austria. The England women meet Sweden, Finland and Norway. In each over semi-finals the men are likely to meet either Sweden or Finland, while the women will probably face Ireland, Netherlands or Germany.

(ENGLAND SQUAD: Men: D Harris (Essex), B Bason (Northampton), P Marshall (Leicestershire), P Carter (Northampton), C Walker (Essex), S Pinder (Yorkshire), Women: S Wright (Kens), D Vardy (Northampton), C Jackson (North), S Langley (Hampshire).

## ROYAL WINDSOR PREVIEW

This week's features include:-

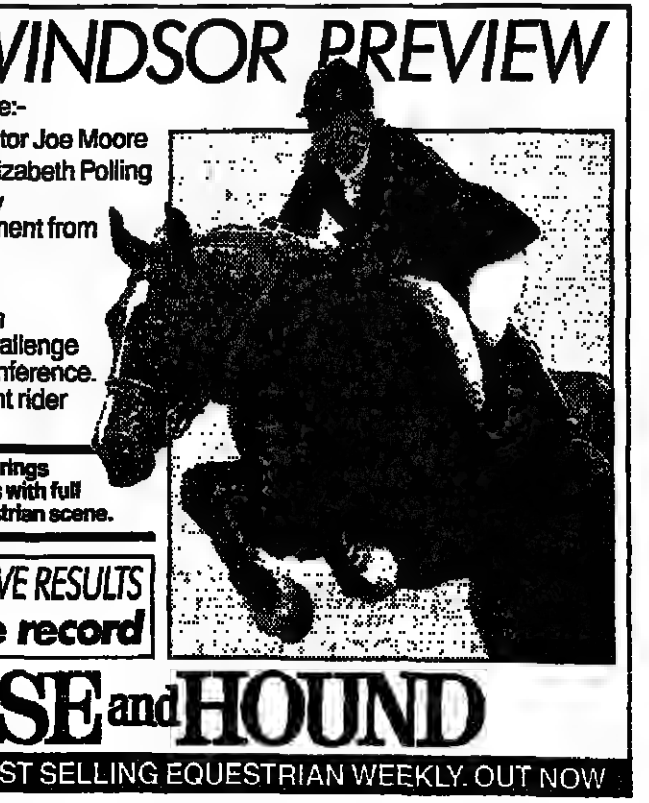
- Interview with show director Joe Moore
- Showing prospects by Elizabeth Polling
- Show jumping preview by Peter Churchill and comment from Harvey Smith
- Plus timetable of events
- Also Christopher Poole on Machiavellian's Guineas challenge and report on the racing conference.
- Extract from three-day event rider Rachel Hunt's new book

Each week Horse and Hound brings you up-to-date news and views with full colour pictures from the equestrian scene.

NEW COMPREHENSIVE RESULTS SECTION - For the record

## HORSE and HOUND

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST SELLING EQUESTRIAN WEEKLY OUT NOW





Alix Ramsay reports on the special people competing in the Special Olympics

## Support rolls in on the Clyde

OLYMPIC fever is spreading in Strathclyde. In July, Glasgow will be host to more than 3,000 mentally handicapped competitors from east and west Europe plus their carers and families for the European Special Olympic Games. And they will be welcomed by the Duke of Edinburgh, who will open the games in Celtic Park.

The Scots have really pushed the boat out, with Strathclyde Council pouring £1.5 million into the event, plus venues and support services free of charge to make it the most spectacular event of its kind held in Europe. The intention is to put the Special Olympics — and the organization that goes behind it — on the map.

But Special Olympics UK (SOUK) does more than staging national and international sports events. "The actual Games are just the show-piece," Peter Tanner, the chief executive of SOUK, said. "The motivation behind the organization is to take athletes with a mental handicap and get them into a training programme. In Britain we have 19,000 members in nearly 100 groups. These groups give the athletes year-round training in athletics, swimming and most sports disciplines based on the Olympics."

The Special Olympics, founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in America in 1968, came to Britain 11 years ago and there have been national Games held in Merseyside, in Brighton and Leicester. They have left a benefit to the community of sporting facilities for the mentally handicapped and programmes to integrate the handicapped into society.

"I look at them as people or athletes first who also have a mental handicap," Tanner said. "Often, too, their handicap does not impair their athletic ability. I think everyone must have an inherent competitive nature. I know that some of these athletes know they are not going to win, but they want to try and they want to finish and they're so proud of what they have achieved themselves."

The spirit of the Games and of the athletes is infectious. At last year's Leicester Games, a group of prisoners volunteered to work as stewards at the venues and also worked one-to-one with the athletes back at the prison. The same group has applied to go to Glasgow this year and have been granted permission to attend, much to the amazement of Tanner, who admits to being a cynical ex-cop. All competitors get a medal to mark their achievement in actually competing. Sometimes, to the casual observer, the level of sporting prowess may not look too impressive, but everything in this life is relative. One young gymnast

at the last Games trotted up to a springboard, bounced on it and trotted off — that was his set piece. It didn't look much and it wasn't too elegant but for a lad whose sole method of getting from A to B was to crawl along the floor, it represented an mighty achievement.

Barrington Smith is heading for Glasgow with his eyes set on a gold medal for basketball. At 24, a learning disability has left him unable to read or write and he has problems with basic maths and English. But what he does have is a sure eye for the basket on the court and, since joining the Strathclyde Social Education College in Wembley two years ago, he has a place in one of the best teams in the country.

"Coming to Strathclyde means a lot to Barry," his brother, Vernal, said. "The college gives people opportunities to express themselves. And it gives him the chance to advance his athletics and the chance to travel to the Games and experience different places."

Now, with a marked increase in confidence, Barry Smith is on a job training programme at Vale Farm Sports Centre with the chance of a permanent job. "Since he's been coming to Strathclyde he's become more independent," Vernal said. "We realized he had potential when he started. He knows that he is a good sportsman and so he tries his best and that encourages him to do more."

With almost 30 medals and trophies to his name, already Smith is determined to add to his tally in Glasgow. "We will win," he said. "We will win gold." I'm looking forward to the Olympics. I've been to Games in Ireland, Scotland and America and I like to travel, going places and seeing things. Basketball is special because I like to play in a team, and the skill tests are the best. I always want to try and beat my own record."

The Scots won the right to host the event thanks to a proven track record in helping the mentally handicapped and an impressive presentation to the Special Olympics International governing body in Washington.

The Americans went on record to say it was the best presentation they had seen. Councillor Bernard Scott said. He is in charge of social services at Strathclyde Council and is raking in the cash to fund the Games.

Yesterday, Bill Hughes, the chairman of European Summer Special Olympic Games, announced £2.5 million in sponsorship, ranging from £10,000 to £1.5 million from Strathclyde.

Scott said: "We have athletes coming from all over Europe, including Latvia, Estonia and Russia." It is no laughing matter arranging



Courting fame: Barrington Smith and coach, Mark Woolford, prepare to dig for gold

travel plans for such a diverse group of people, but bureaucracy is no problem to Scott: "We intend to deliver and in delivering we will cut through the red tape."

The set-up is dominated by local authority people and through the town-twinning links in Europe we can get things done quickly. For instance, I can call the mayor of any town direct and get him to sort things out at his end. We secured representation from the Eastern bloc two years ago before the political barriers started to come down."

At home Scott and his team have cleared the political barriers by uniting local authorities around Britain in support of the Games. A sponsored torch run from Athens to Glasgow by the Strathclyde

police is raising money and publicity. "Everyone wants the run to go through their town," Scott said.

"Just the other day Banff and Buchan — a tiny authority of about 15,000 people — sent me a letter pledging £5,000 and financial assistance to any athlete from their area competing in the Games. It means we have had to change the route for the torch yet again and go all the way up to the Moray Firth and back down to get to Glasgow. The police are getting fed up with me."

Schools in Scotland are also getting involved through the Adopt an Athlete scheme. "We have nearly 2,000 primary and 200 secondary schools taking part. We hope to get them all involved

because the Special Olympics has an educational and a humane aspect."

Scott, an optimist, feels that his team has every possible contingency covered to make the Games a success: "I don't think there are any real problems except living itself. The only thing we can't control on the day is the weather. Any man-made problems we can overcome, any others we will have a bash at."

"The real message of the Games is that people must care for each other. We should be caring more and giving people opportunities — that is what is wrong with society today. And we have to tell people don't hide someone away in a back room just because they have got a mental handicap."

## RACING

## Lomax win underlines classic prospects of improving Now Listen

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

Encouragement for the chances of Now Listen in Saturday's 2,000 Guineas was given at Ascot yesterday when Lomax, his galloping companion, won the Insulup Victoria Cup under 9st 3lb for the in-form team of Pat Eddery and Guy Harwood. After Eddery had driven Lomax home two lengths ahead of Profit A Poudre, the fast-finishing runner-up on the stands side of the track, Harwood said: "It would be a mistake to read too much into it. But Lomax was bought as a lead horse and he leads Mr Abdulla's horses in their work, and it's a nice bonus to have won a Victoria Cup."

The backers certainly took this win as a direct boost for Now Listen's chance. By the end of the afternoon 6-1 was the top price on offer about the Folkestone and Nottingham winner, who was a 100-1 chance just over a fortnight ago. "He's very well and he's going to run a big race," Harwood said.

Eddery is certainly in dynamic form. After landing a 35-1 five-timer at Bath on Tuesday, he won on Saturday as well as Lomax. Despite narrow defeats on Marquetry in the White Rose Stakes and Les Animaux Nages in the Garter Stakes, the champion jockey had ridden seven winners and seconds during the last two days.

Richard Quinn and Paul Cole were also a jockey and trainer to his peak form. Quinn won the White Rose on Saturday for Mark Johnston and also landed a double for Cole on River Nomad and Generous. Cole also completed a treble when Alan Simpson won the concluding Cheltenham Apprentices' Stakes on Sultan's Son.

The Derby market became even more confused after Sasaki, the ante-post favourite

had finished third, just over eight lengths behind Starstruck and Marquetry. Sasaki is owned by Sheikh Mohammed and afterwards Anthony Stroud, his racing manager, said: "Steve Cauthen thought he needed the race, but it was very disappointing and at this stage he doesn't look like a classic horse."

Sasaki has been removed from the Derby bet and Digression, the winter favourite, has been restored to first place in the market at 8-1. The race itself resulted in an enthralling duel between Quinn, the eventual winner and Eddery on the runner-up, Marquetry appeared to be in front 50 yards out and Quinn only gained the day in the final strides.

He is certainly not afraid of travelling south to find plunder.

He has now had two winners from four runners at Ascot and also landed a double at Salisbury last summer. Starstruck is not entered in the classics and Johnston intends to run the three-year-old in the Prix la Force at Longchamp on May 20.

On the Derby front it appears that Harwood has a particularly strong hand. Apart from Digression, he also has Duff, Of Padurac, Marquetry and Defensive Play, last Saturday's Guardian Classic Trial winner.

"Marquetry is improving and must of course be a possibility for Epsom. I thought the press were very unkind about Defensive Play. He battled on well and obviously stays. He also showed a lot of speed as a two-year-old. He could be the joker in the pack."

No man rides as well as the jockey in form and earlier Eddery had given a masterly exhibition of waiting in front on Teamster in the Insulup Sagaro Stakes. Sending Teamster clear early in the straight.

## Poynton dismisses link with sale of Manton

JOHN Poynton, the chairman of Coventry Football Club, yesterday denied any involvement with the impending sale of Robert Sangster's Manton training establishment (George Rae writes).

Poynton, a wealthy businessman based in the Channel Islands, was rumoured to be a consortium being assembled by Barry Hills, the present owner of Manton, and I have visited Manton but that is all there is to it," said Poynton, a keen racing man whose horses

include the steeplechasers Tonight The Night and Raise An Argument.

"Barry Hills has occasionally come to watch Coventry play, so there is that contact between us, but there is nothing in any story which links him to Manton. Hills, backed by an as yet unnamed group of financiers, has offered Sangster £12 million for the 2,300-acre complex in Wiltshire, Manton, which could cater for 600 horses, is likely to be divided into sections of individual training bases, granted the appropriate planning permission.

## Cole looks to France for Zoman

PAUL Cole is considering switching Zoman to the Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 2,000 Guineas) at Longchamp on Sunday in response to the Newmarket classic (Our French Racing Correspondent writes).

With only 11 left at yesterday's fortnight stage, Cole reasons that the race could become less competitive than the 2,000 Guineas.

There are four English challengers remaining, with Robert Armstrong's Book The Band, the mount of Steve Cauthen, and Casario, trained by Richard Hannan, also probable runners. Welney, the other acceptor, is more likely to go for the 2,000 Guineas.

With Machiavellian and Septieme Ciel, both intended Newmarket runners, also entered, the field looks likely to be eight-strong at most.

## Kelso runners dwindle as ground takes its toll

THE runners on hard ground at Kelso yesterday totalled just 15, with the featured Teachers Whisky Handicap Chase reduced to a walkover for the Denys Smith-trained Edge.

Clerk of the course Sam Morshead said: "There is no convenient supply of water and no water we can tap from. For us there has been adverse weather conditions since the beginning of the year."

The disappointing turnout of runners is thought to be one of the lowest on record. The conditions appeared to take their toll on those which did run. The odds-on favourite, ridden by Kenny Johnson, limped into the winner's enclosure after beating Flying Lion by eight lengths in the three-runner Allots Brewery Novices' Hurdle for amateur riders.

Trainer Arthur Stephenson quickly completed a second priced double, and took his

season's score to 90 in the first when 6-1 on Over The Firm beat Hi Wallie by six lengths in the Tim Doody Novices' Chase. Stephenson is attempting to reach a century of winners for the eighth time.

Tim Reed, who sustained a broken neck in a fall at Perth last week, reappeared to ride Ellie On — the outsider of three at 3-1 — to an all-the-way victory from Paris Match by 25 lengths in the Charnish Handicap Hurdle.

Ellie On is trained by former jockey John Goulding whose Cockermouth yard has been badly affected by a virus.

Neale Doughty's only ride of the afternoon on Achitube proved a successful one when he made all to beat Cosmic Ray by three lengths.

Winning trainer Will Crawford's wife, Patricia, said: "Achitube is out of Gorgous Gerlie, who provided Doughty with the first winner of his career."

## NEWTON ABBOT

Selections  
By Mandarin

6.0 Almerimar. 6.30 Tres Sportif. 7.0 Benbridge. 7.30 Frosty Reception. 8.0 Crowcopper. 8.30 Home Or Away.

Going: firm (watering)

6.0 LESLIE REDFERN CHALLENGE CUP CHASE (22,411; 2m 150yd) (13 runners)

1 6433 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 2 6434 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 3 6435 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 4 6436 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 5 6437 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 6 6438 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 7 6439 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 8 6440 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 9 6441 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 10 6442 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 11 6443 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 12 6444 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 13 6445 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10.

6.30 WEST OF ENGLAND CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (21,632; 2m 150yd) (7)

1 6446 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 2 6447 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 3 6448 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 4 6449 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 5 6450 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 6 6451 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10. 7 6452 ALMERIMAR 12 M Henderson 8-11-10.

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